Red-faced gov't officials apologize to Libya

STORY ON PAGE A2

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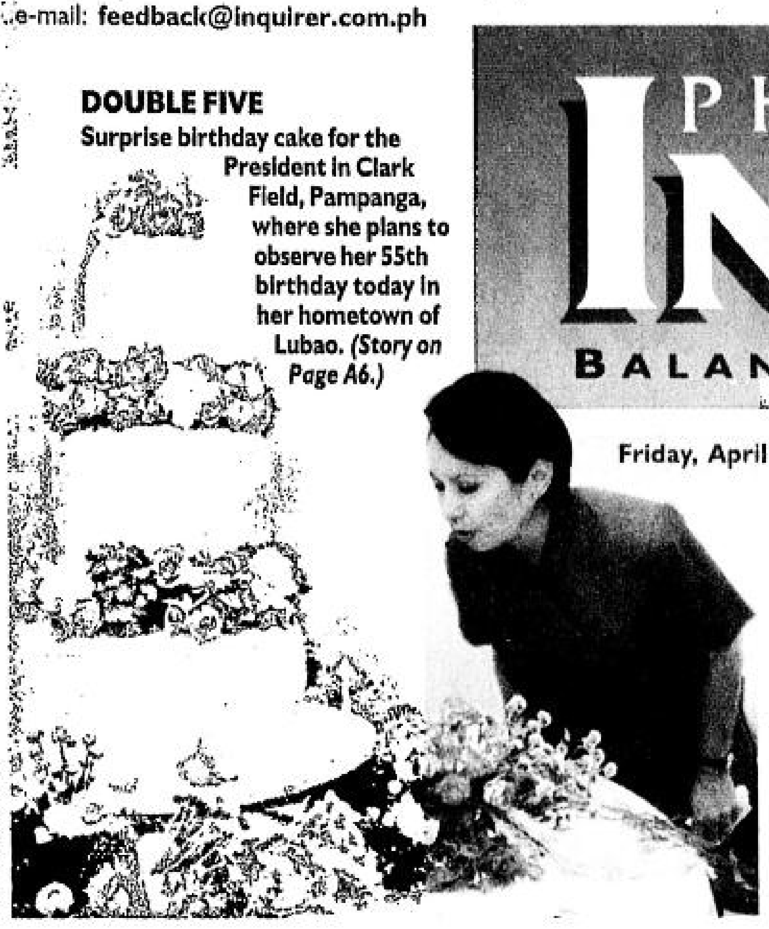


DOUBLE FIVE
Surprise birthday cake for the President in Clark Field, Pampanga, where she plans to observe her 55th birthday today in her hometown of Lubao. *(Story on Page A6.)*

VAL HANDUMON

Meralco warns of brownouts if...

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PAY more or face brownouts.

The Manila Electric Co. yesterday warned consumers that its services would "deteriorate" if it did not get a rate increase.

Without a hike in power charges, the P6.9 billion the utility firm plans to in-

MERALCO/A7

Oh, little town of Bethlehem

Palestinians refuse to yield; Israelis press offensive

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—A priest at the Church of the Nativity appealed for international help on Wednesday to avert a potential "massacre" as armed Palestinians holed up in the church that marks the birthplace of Jesus were running out of food but refused to surrender Thursday.

Israeli forces widened their offensive by overrunning the Palestinian city of Nablus in the West Bank.

"We appeal to the international community, nations of the world, to come to our rescue," Fr. Ibrahim Faltas said in a dramatic televised plea brought out by Italian journalists, who were escorted out of Bethlehem with diplomatic assistance after being trapped inside the church complex since Tuesday.

"Unless you do something to solve this issue, we are in a real and great danger of

OH/A18

Cha-cha solons defy GMA

'Now's the time to go on with it,' say lawmakers

By Juliet L. Javellana, *in Manila*
and Raj Padilla, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

THERE is no stopping lawmakers from pursuing constitutional amendments, not even the expressed opposition of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"While that may be her personal stand, I believe she will not insist on it if the people are clamoring for change," Western Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, yesterday told the INQUIRER.

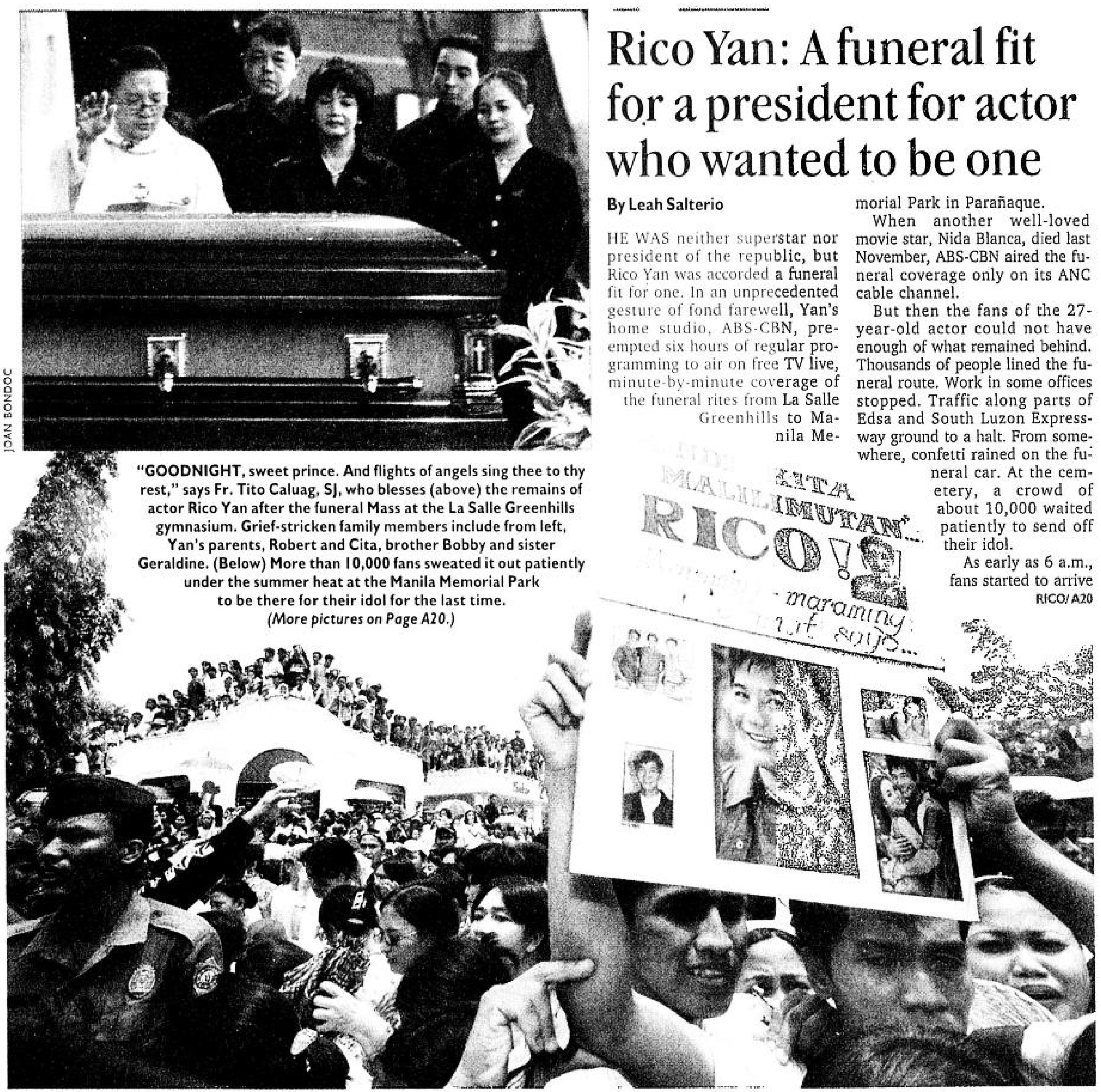
Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez of Iloilo City, one of the proponents of Charter change, said the President's opposition would not be a stumbling block to Congress' resolve to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Gonzalez expressed disagreement with the President's position that Congress should attend to urgent pending bills before focusing its attention on amending the Charter.

"Many of these priorities may even be dissipated once the provisions of the Constitution are looked into," Gonzalez said.

"And with due respect to the President, I

CHA-CHA/A20



MALILIMUTAN...
RICO!
maraming salamat sayo...

JOAN BONDOC

"GOODNIGHT, sweet prince. And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest," says Fr. Tito Caluag, SJ, who blesses (above) the remains of actor Rico Yan after the funeral Mass at the La Salle Greenhills gymnasium. Grief-stricken family members include from left, Yan's parents, Robert and Cita, brother Bobby and sister Geraldine. (Below) More than 10,000 fans sweated it out patiently under the summer heat at the Manila Memorial Park to be there for their idol for the last time.
(More pictures on Page A20.)

ERIK ARAZAS

Rico Yan: A funeral fit for a president for actor who wanted to be one

By Leah Salterio

HE WAS neither superstar nor president of the republic, but Rico Yan was accorded a funeral fit for one. In an unprecedented gesture of fond farewell, Yan's home studio, ABS-CBN, preempted six hours of regular programming to air on free TV live, minute-by-minute coverage of the funeral rites from La Salle Greenhills to Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

When another well-loved movie star, Nida Blanca, died last November, ABS-CBN aired the funeral coverage only on its ANC cable channel.

But then the fans of the 27-year-old actor could not have enough of what remained behind. Thousands of people lined the funeral route. Work in some offices stopped. Traffic along parts of Edsa and South Luzon Expressway ground to a halt. From somewhere, confetti rained on the funeral car. At the cemetery, a crowd of about 10,000 waited patiently to send off their idol.

As early as 6 a.m., fans started to arrive

RICO/A20

'Simple researcher' or a mole of the gnomes of Zurich?

By Donna S. Cueto

A CONFESSED chain smoker, controversial research director Danilo R.V. Daniel of the Presidential Commission on Good Government consumed three packs of cigarettes yesterday, the day he read in the papers that PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac had criticized his "monopoly" of vital documents relating to the Marcos deposits in Switzerland.

His troubles have since mounted, with Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo yesterday calling for heads to roll at the PCGG and former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez asking Yorac to fire the research chief.

SIMPLE/A5

UBOS NA NAMAN!!!

Smart gadgets: Bottomless glass, lip-reading phone

PARIS—The tedious business of trying to catch the waiter's eye for a refill may be over.

A Japanese company has devised a hi-tech glass that sends a signal to restaurant staff that tells them instantly when you are ready for another drink.

iGlassware, invented by

SMART/A18

Eating more, moving less, killing 2M yearly—WHO

By Armand Nocum

A DEADLY health epidemic is sweeping the developing world, and the Philippines is right in the middle of it.

"The biggest epidemic of our time is the product not of a runamuck virus but of our rapidly changing lifestyles and a pattern to eat more and move less," Dr. Shigeru Omi, World Health Organization regional director, told a news conference yesterday. The result: "approximately 2 million deaths every year," attributable to ailments linked to a sedentary lifestyle.

According to health officials,

EATING/A4

THE UNEXPECTED visit of President Macapagal at the wake in Funeraria Paz makes the Celerio family happy. From left, daughter Olivia and longtime companion Lina Belen.

VAL HANDUMON

Gloria brings life to Levi Celerio's wake

By Nini Valera

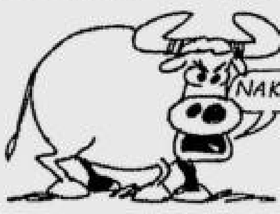
ONLY the unexpected visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday night to condole with the family of National Artist Levi Celerio at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City brought life to his wake.

Her retinue of about 20 security men from the Presidential Security Group (PSG) and members of her personal staff swelled the crowd of mourners to almost 50.

Otherwise, Celerio's death on Monday at the age of 91 from multi-organ failure would have been like the passing of a ship in the night. Only immediate family members and a handful of musician friends were keeping

GLORIA/A20

Second FRONT PAGE


NAKAKAHIYA!

Red-faced officials apologize to Libya

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENTIAL adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita apologized yesterday to the Libyan government for allegations it had funneled funds to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network through the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Ermita said the claim was "embarrassing" since there was no evidence to link Libya to such a scheme.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday his office would send a letter of apology to the Libyan government for the implications it was involved in the Sipadan (Malaysia) hostage-taking crisis in 2000.

"What has been alleged against the Libyan government is not substantiated by facts," Perez said.

Wary that the allegations could affect the country's relationship with Libya, Perez said: "We are sorry that it gave the wrong impression. And it might affect our relationship with the Libyan government.

"So I'm writing a letter addressed to the ambassador of Libya stating that there is no evidence whatsoever linking Libya to any money-laundering activities with the al-Qaida and the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Perez said he hoped his letter of apology would "end all this discussion, which could affect Filipinos working in Libya."

Malacañang the other day disowned a justice official's statement that Libya used ransom payments made to the Abu Sayyaf for the Sipadan hostages two years ago as a cover to deliver funds to al-Qaida.

Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao said the President had not authorized any government official to disclose "suspicions or theories" raised by US investigators.

"I was surprised with that news report that they (Libyans) were involved in money laundering. This is embarrassing," said Ermita, who was in Libya last week, in a radio interview yesterday.

Ermita said the Philippine government had asked Libya to mediate in the Sipadan hostage crisis because the Abu Sayyaf refused to negotiate with any other group.

Ermita took the INQUIRER to task for reporting that Libya had used the Abu Sayyaf as a money conduit to al-Qaida.

In an earlier report, the INQUIRER had quoted Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida as saying that Philippine and US investigators suspect the ransom payments made to the Abu Sayyaf might have found their way to al-Qaida's coffers.

Ermita said other newspapers that featured interviews with Calida did not mention anything about Libya's involvement.

He said he had met with Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Treki who assured him his government was satisfied with the administration's implementation of the 1996 peace pact with the Moro National Liberation Front.

Treki, he said, also promised to send more aid to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao through the Ghadafi Foundation of Libyan leader Moammar Ghaddafi.

The assistance would reportedly include mobile clinics, an orphanage and a mosque in Zamboanga City and a hospital in Jolo.

Perez issued his statement after Calida said Tuesday US and Philippine investigators were following the paper trail left by the ransom payments made to the Abu Sayyaf to free the Sipadan hostages.

Palace incommunicado as phone lines go dead

By Dona Pazzibugan

FOR THE FIRST time in memory, Malacañang was held incommunicado after its telephones were suddenly not working.

Starting noon, all telephones in the country's seat of power could not make outgoing calls or take incoming calls.

Frantic Malacañang operators immediately called up the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The telephones only functioned again at 5:45 p.m.

Curiously, the "system breakdown," as PLDT engineers reportedly put it, was confined to Malacañang.

Fortunately for PLDT, President Macapagal-Arroyo was not in Malacañang yesterday.

She left for Clark, Pampanga, early in the morning.

She spent the night in Subic, Zambales, from where she is to motor to Lubao, Pampanga, this morning to celebrate her 55th birthday.

An employee who had served since the Marcos administration said this was the first time all of Malacañang's telephones did not work.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao also hold office in Malacañang.

Romulo and Boncodin were out of the office for most of the day so, like the President, they did not undergo a telephone-less day.

Tiglao was in his office the entire day, but he claimed his telephones were working perfectly.

He jokingly told the INQUIRER not to jump into any conclusion. "There's no coup," he said.

Tiglao holds office in Kalayaan Hall, where the Malacañang press area is also located.

Unlike Tiglao, print and broadcast reporters had quite a hard time coping with the loss of telephones.

They used up most of their cellphone time to dictate their stories to their news desks.

The Malacañang news desk also could not fax its news releases to media organizations and news agencies.

Moro leader's house raided

COTABATO CITY—Soldiers, backed by armored personnel carriers yesterday raided the house of a ranking rebel leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front here and arrested a suspected member of a gang that kidnapped Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, the military said.

The raid occurred as MILF-led negotiations for the freedom of the kidnapped priest hit a snag.

The MILF described the raid as a violation of the ceasefire agreement they signed with the government.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the military acted on a tip-off about the presence of members of the Pentagon kidnap gang in Barangay Kalanganan here.

The soldiers searched the house of Taps Jilhani, chair of the MILF's coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities.

But during the search, Ando said, the soldiers did not take any firearm from Jilhani.

"Incidentally, the house of Jilhani was among those searched. We were really after the suspected kidnappers believed to be linked to the group that seized Italian missionary (Fr. Giuseppe) Pierantoni," Ando told Radio dxMS.

Edwin O. Fernandez and Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Sandigan orders 'Bejo' arrested

By Donna S. Cueto

SANDIGANBAYAN has already issued a warrant for the arrest of Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez for graft in the illegal takeover of the Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Co. Inc.

The arrest warrant was issued by the Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division only yesterday to the court sheriff, according to Sandiganbayan sheriff Ed Urieta.

But the arrest warrant was dated March 26, a day after Romualdez again failed to appear for his arraignment.

Only his doctor appeared on March 25, claiming that Romualdez was not feeling well and could not come to court.

The PCGG earlier said that it hoped the court would issue an arrest warrant for Romualdez since he had repeatedly failed to attend his scheduled arraignment. It had been postponed repeatedly over the past few years.

PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza said that Romualdez has to be arraigned in his criminal cases before the Sandiganbayan so as not to imperil the PCGG's attempt to recover his frozen deposits in Switzerland which is estimated to be $3 million.

He said that there was a danger Romualdez might also ask the Swiss to lift the freeze order on his accounts as what Marcos crony Geronimo Velasco and his secretary Carmencita Clavecilla had done.

Oops!

TWO death-row inmates who President Macapagal-Arroyo said would be executed in August cannot be put to death earlier than November, the national prisons chief said yesterday.

Ms Macapagal said Wednesday that the men, Roderick Licayan and Roberto Lara, convicted in 1998 of kidnapping, would be executed in August unless capital punishment is repealed in the meantime.

Gregorio Agaloos, superintendent of the national penitentiary holding the country's death-row inmates, said he had informed the President's office that the Supreme Court affirmed the men's sentences on Aug. 15. But the decision did not actually become final until Nov. 9, 2001.

Under the death penalty law, an execution should be carried out between 12 and 18 months after the decision becomes final.

"We made a mistake," Agaloos said. *AP*

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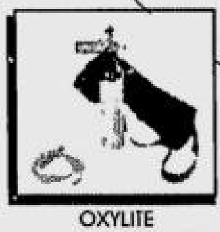
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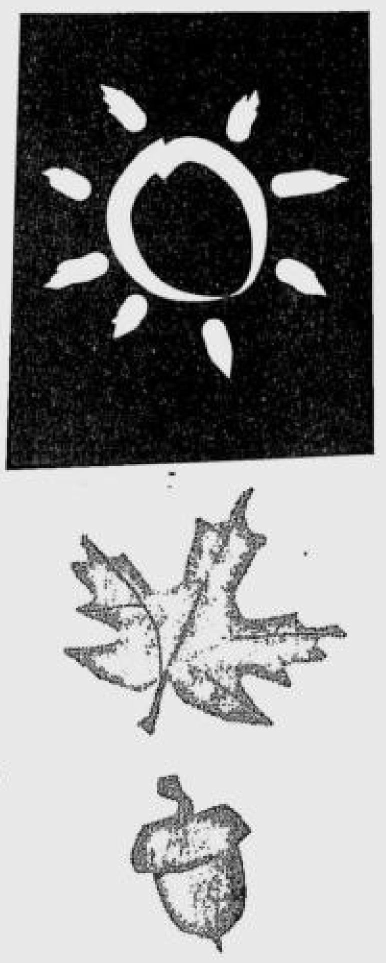
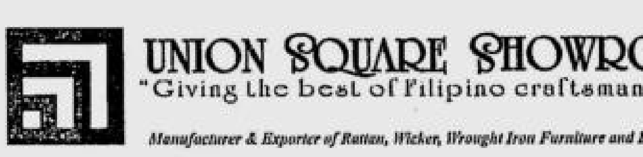
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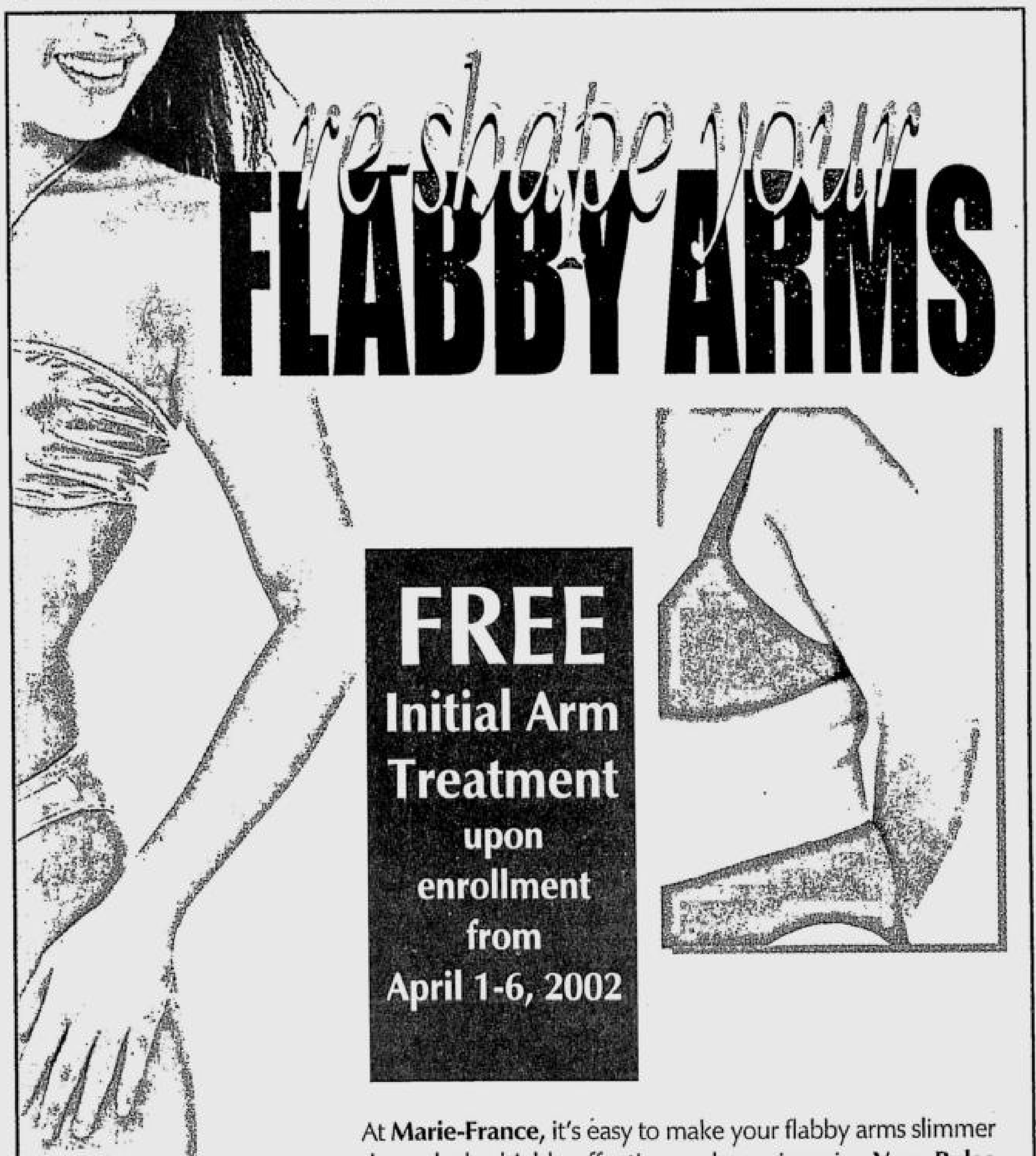
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Eating more, moving less, killing 2M yearly–WHO

From page A1

the problem is probably even more serious in Asia and the rest of the developing world, including the Philippines. "Fifty percent of the (Philippine) population is found to be sedentary," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said at the same news briefing.

In the Philippines, Dayrit said, seven of the 10 leading causes of death are non-communicable diseases caused by unhealthy behavior patterns, such as the lack of physical activity, unhealthy diet and smoking.

Diseases related to inactive living—such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancers associated with a sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy diet—now account for "six out of 10 deaths in Asia and the Pacific," Omi said. These diseases were rare less than 50 years ago, he added. "As obesity levels go up, health and wellbeing spiral downward. Today, six out of 10 of us will die from conditions that were rare only a few decades ago," he said.

Physical inactivity is now one of the 10 leading causes of death and disability worldwide—because as countries urbanize, more people hold desk-bound jobs, children prefer computer games to the playground, and they ride cars, buses or trains instead of walking, one of the cheapest and most effective forms of exercise.

"Today, an alarming number of us are actually obese and may not even know it. An epidemic of inactivity has resulted in increasing rates of obesity," Omi said.

Omi and Dayrit laid part of the blame on increasing modernization, the lack of open sidewalks and parks in developing countries and poor regard for the importance of exercise.

Dayrit said the high level of pollution in Metro Manila and other urban centers has also discouraged people from going out and doing rigorous physical exercise regularly.

Cultural values

Fitness experts have a different explanation for the increase in physical inactivity in the Philippines.

Gilda Uy, dean of the College of Kinetics at the University of the Philippines, said the Filipinos' sedentary lifestyle was due more to "social and cultural values" than to the lack of sports equipment, parks or walkways.

"Young women were being told not to do physical activity, which are left to the men to do," she said.

Dave Bercades, a kinetics professor at UP, noted that Filipinos as a rule don't want to exercise because sweating can lower their social standing.

"Lots of people I've dealt with have problems sweating out. They associate it with laborers and other people doing blue-collar jobs," he said. He also blamed over-protective parents who don't want their children to move about too much in their homes.

Myth debunked

Omi said the WHO study debunks the myth that lifestyle diseases are more of a problem in rich countries than in the developing world, where people are supposedly too poor to afford three square meals a day.

"Levels of inactivity are high in virtually all developed and developing countries. In developed countries, more than half of adults are insufficiently active," compared to 60-85 percent worldwide, a WHO statement said.

"In the rapidly growing large cities of the developing world, physical inactivity is an even greater problem. Crowding, poverty, crime, traffic, low air quality, and a lack of parks, sports and recreation facilities and sidewalks make physical activity a difficult choice."

The WHO also found that "physical activity levels are decreasing among young people in countries around the world, especially in poor urban areas. "It is estimated that less than one-third of young people are sufficiently active to benefit their present and future health and wellbeing."

In the WHO's Western Pacific sector—which covers most of East Asia, Australia and New Zealand and the Pacific islands—diseases linked to inactivity, tobacco use and poor diets now account for six of every 10 deaths, said Gauden Galea, WHO regional adviser on health promotion.

The problem has eclipsed communicable diseases, he said.

About two people in Singapore lose a foot or limb every day to diabetes, leading the government to campaign against it as part of the school curricula, the WHO regional office said. In the central Pacific island of Nauru, 40 percent of adults have diabetes as people there abandoned traditional root crops for fatty and refined foods and became less physically active.

Omi and Dayrit urged the public to spend at least 30 minutes a day on moderate physical activity in order to prevent the onset of these chronic diseases once seen as the sole province of Westernized, developed countries.

Worldwide, more than half of those classified as obese are in developing nations. Heart disease and stroke are expected to be the leading cause of disability and death in the developing world by 2020.

Heavy tobacco use also has fueled rising deaths—though smoking remains the largest single cause of preventable deaths.

The scope of the problem also requires the cooperation of government in reducing vehicle pollution and providing parks, sidewalks and playgrounds for exercise, Omi said.

"The good news is that we can prevent most of these diseases, but we have to start changing our lifestyle. As we all know, that's not so easy," Omi said. *With reports from AP, AFP*

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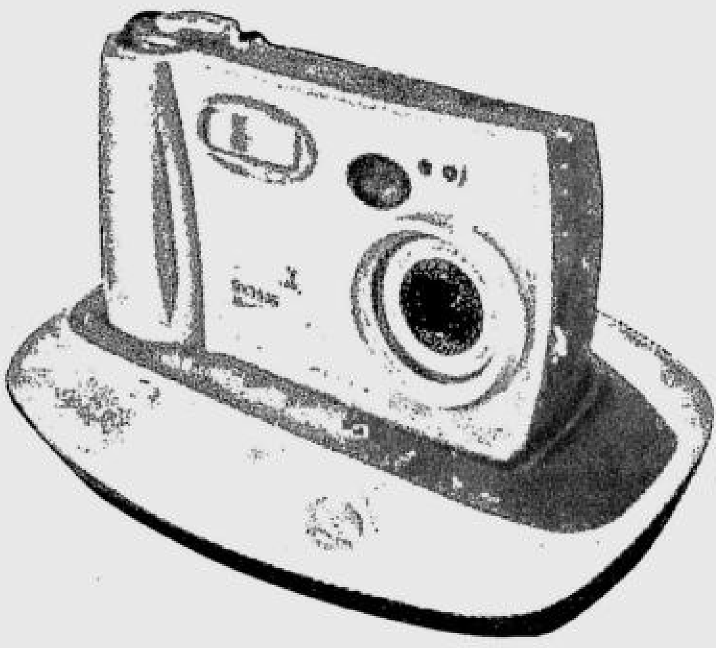

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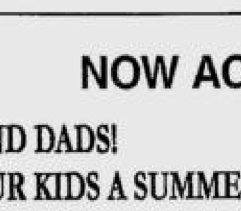

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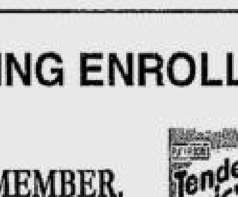

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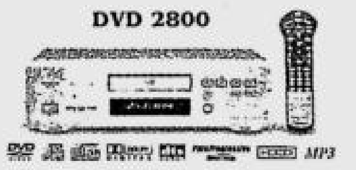

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'Simple researcher' or a mole of the gnomes of Zurich?

From page A1

Wearing a crumpled *barong*, Daniel described himself yesterday as "just a simple researcher," but in another interview Chavez said the research head was a "possible mole for the Swiss lawyer and the Swiss investigating magistrate."

Daniel maintained that he was innocent.

"It's not my fault that I have all this information," he said, as he puffed one cigarette after another, after asking the INQUIRER to see him at his office. He had been reached by phone the other day, but insisted that his statements then were all "off the record."

Yesterday, he said, he got Yorac's permission to talk in the open.

He had no qualms in saying that he had indeed kept all the vital documents—relating to the foreign accounts, mostly Swiss, of the Marcoses and their cronies—in his own filing system and not in the library.

"These are my files. These came from me," said Daniel, 42, who has been with the PCGG since 1987.

His filing system is part of his work as research chief, he explained, as he has received information directly from Swiss authorities.

Daniel said that he knew the background, details and intricacies of the information on the Swiss and other foreign accounts of the Marcoses and their cronies like the back of his hand.

"If it is not known to other officials of the commission, it is because I came across this information in the course of my research work. Once you get hold of that, you do not share that (with) anyone," he said.

"You look at it, you examine it, analyze it, relate it to existing documents in the library, then come out with a report," Daniel said.

Rows of documents

Daniel's office is filled with rows and rows of filing boxes, envelopes and folders. More boxes, folders and envelopes, including faxes from Switzerland, fill his floor and his two tables in seeming disarray. Three white plastic chairs on one side of his room are filled with more documents, boxes and envelopes.

The filing boxes had paper tags with handwritten notes. Daniel said only he knew where each document could be found, but added that recently his staff rearranged his files in alphabetical order. (He used to arrange them in terms of "active" and "inactive" files.)

When the company tasked with computerizing all PCGG files told him last March that all his files had already been scanned, he said he pointed out those files the company agents did not know about.

"If I was hiding something," he said yesterday, "I would have not told them about the files."

Daniel said the impression that he was doing something wrong was "unfair" to him, and said those spreading rumors about him were just "envious."

"They are envious simply because, I know a lot which they don't know about. I am not a lawyer.

Daniel is a certified public accountant who hails from Bicol. It was not true, he said, that he keeps PCGG files at home. "How can I do that when I only rent a small room?" Because of marriage problems, he said, he has had to leave his house.

Mutual Assistance

Though he is not a lawyer, Daniel said he was the one who prepared the International Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters or IMAC in Switzerland.

He said the recovery of the Marcos Swiss accounts, now placed in escrow abroad by the Philippine National Bank, should be credited in part to him, because he was part of the team in 1991 that pieced the evidence together.

He said Chavez knows him and could vouch for him.

But Chavez yesterday called on the PCGG to "fire" him.

"I don't know him well enough to vouch for his honesty. I would say that he is a possible mole for the Swiss lawyers and Swiss investigating magistrate," Chavez said.

Chavez dealt with the Swiss during the Aquino administration, particularly with then-Zurich District Lawyer Peter Cosandey. He recalled that Cosandey gave him only "sanitized" documents, those which would not lead to further discoveries of new accounts.

But Daniel was all praises for the Swiss. He described the Swiss authorities he deals with as "very cooperative," and that his relationship with them was "very satisfactory."

But he denied that he was ever a mole for the Union Bank of Switzerland, the Swiss or for the Marcoses. Asked if he had ever been approached by the Marcoses or their cronies about certain files, he said No.

"I'm only an ordinary person. I don't know any crony. They only know me by name. They don't know me by face," he said.

He said he would never be a Marcos mole.

In sourcing Swiss documents, Daniel said he was "assisted very ably by Dr. (Martin) Kurer," the PCGG's Swiss lawyer who himself had been accused of having conspired with Swiss banks to frustrate recovery of the Marcos accounts.

Meeting Yorac

Yesterday, Daniel explained his actions to PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac, who repeated to him her view of the whole thing.

"It is so dangerous that you have a monopoly of information," Yorac reportedly told Daniel. But she reportedly also said that she was not holding him responsible for lost documents.

Daniel told the INQUIRER that none of his files or those from the library—which is part of his unit—had ever been lost.

"I don't have any idea about those missing files. I don't know about those alleged files which are being sold," he said.

How does he secure his files?

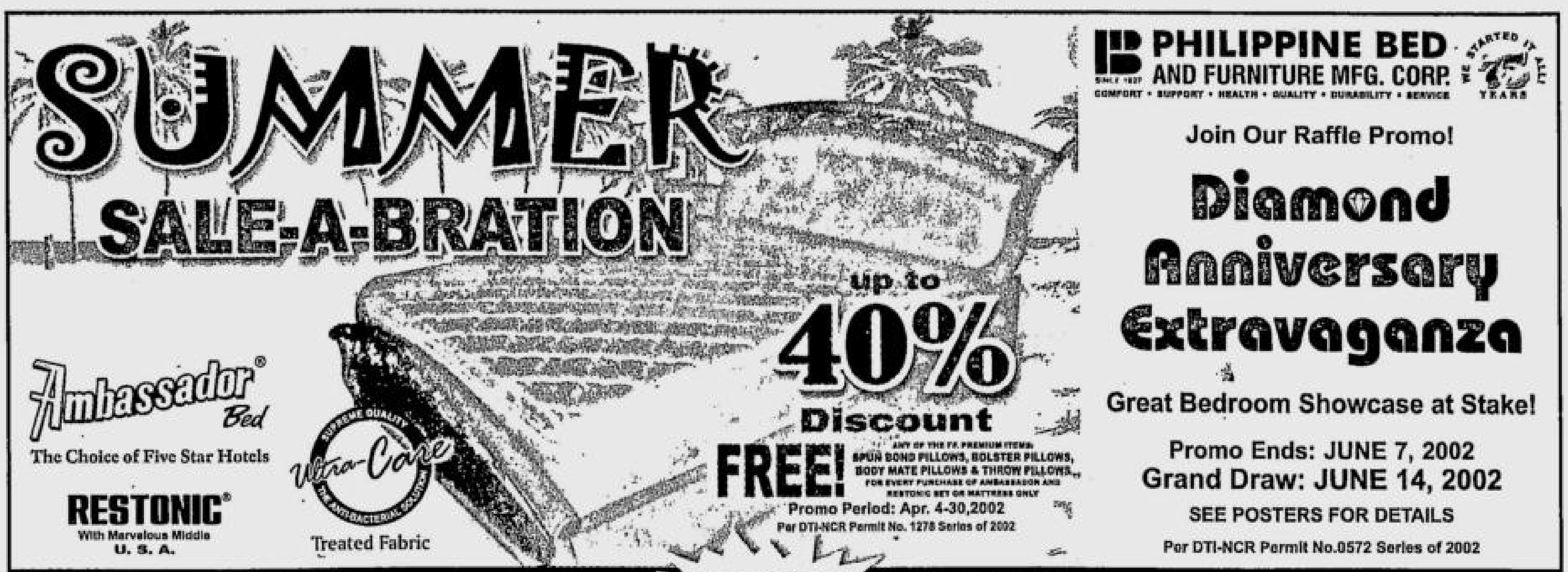
"When I leave the office, it's locked. When I'm in the office, I leave it open," Daniel simply said.

At a press briefing yesterday, Marcelo said he would recommend to Yorac to immediately sack PCGG officials responsible for the missing documents.

"These PCGG officials should be charged with infidelity in the custody of documents, which is a criminal offense, and gross neglect of duty," Marcelo said.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, who was at the same briefing, welcomed Marcelo's suggestion. "File the charges and we'll prosecute the cases," he said.

But Desierto also slammed PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza for blaming the Ombudsman for what Desierto said was the "PCGG's own incompetence." *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*



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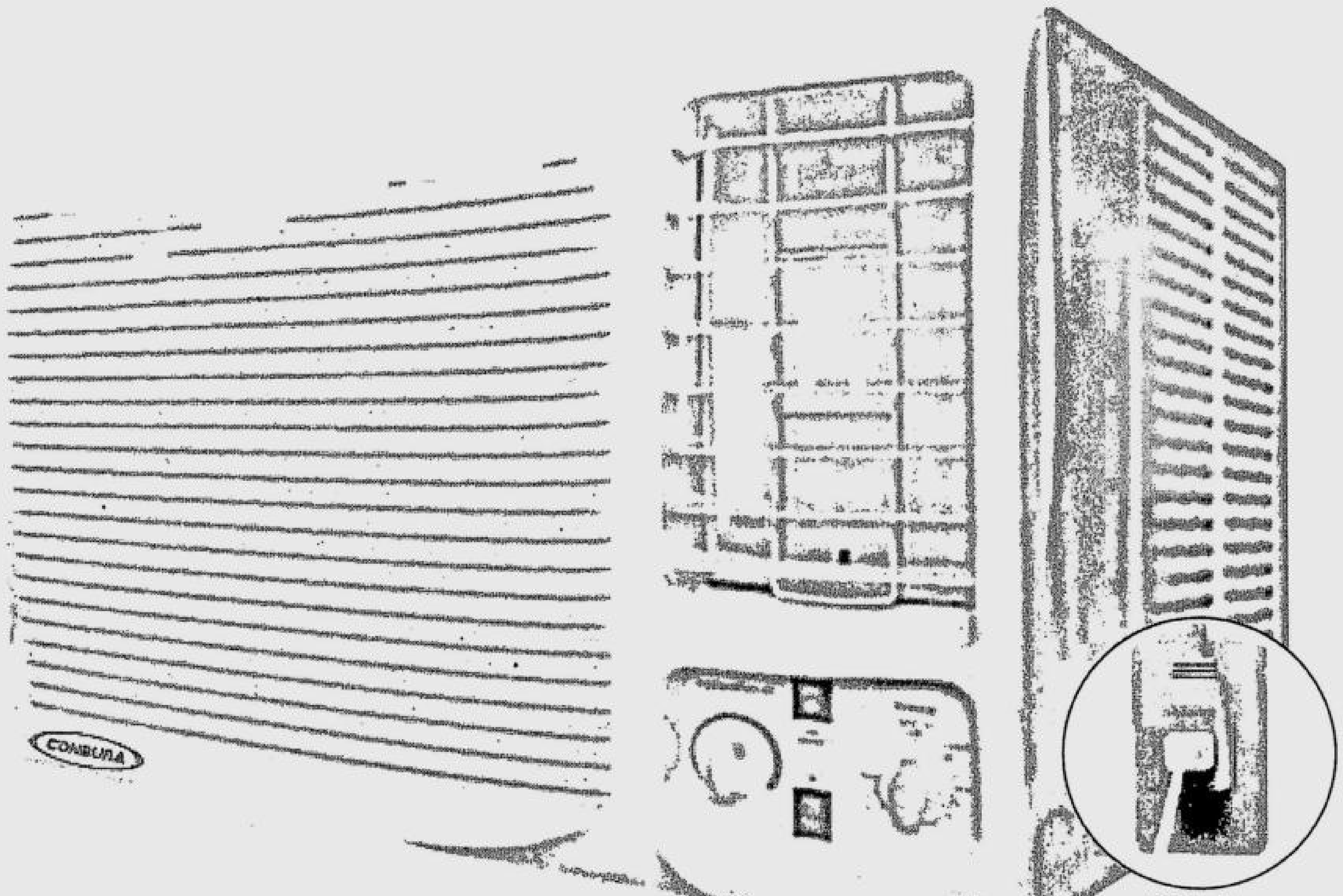

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‘JUSTICE WILL BE DONE’

Erap trial ‘over by next year’

By Michael Lim Ubac

TWO top government prosecutors have predicted that the historic trial of former President Joseph Estrada would be over by early next year.

The reason: Estrada’s defense lawyers would not be able to present any evidence to counter the charges against the ousted leader because he himself “is their worst witness.”

The optimism was shared by Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo and Ombudsman Aniano Desierto as the prosecution marked yesterday the first anniversary of Estrada’s indictment for plunder and other crimes.

A year ago, Estrada, his son Jinggoy, lawyer Edward Serapio, friends Charlie “Atong” Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte and several others were formally charged before the Sandiganbayan with plunder, perjury, illegal use of alias and graft, among other charges.

"It will be over by next year," Marcelo said. "The prosecution and the defense will finish the presentation of evidence and counter-evidence by the end of this year."

Desierto shared Marcelo's optimism, saying “justice will be done."

Desierto, the lead prosecutor, said his team would finish the presentation of evidence in four months.

He acknowledged, however, that the defense panel could continue to delay the proceedings through legal mane-uverings.

"But this trial will surely end. I assure the Filipino people the judgment will be just," said Desierto, who is seeking the death penalty in the plunder case.

He added: "We will not allow a second anniversary (of the cases) to (come around)."

Desierto and Marcelo said the proceedings were gaining momentum. "They will speed up on April 15, the resumption of the regular thrice-weekly trial. Then it will all be over by next year," said Marcelo.

But Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who was with Marcelo and Desierto at a press briefing yesterday, doubted Estrada's cases would be resolved quickly.

"I doubt it. We could finish our presentation of evidence by the end of the year, but I don't know about the defense," Perez said.

Perez said the prosecution has already “presented one-third of the evidentiary requirement in the Belle Resources case," which was part of the plunder complaint.

Marcelo insisted, however, that the defense would not be able to present any substantial evidence to counter the prosecution's proof.

"As I see it, I don't think the defense can present any evidence. Who will they present... Estrada? He is their worst witness," Marcelo said.

He was referring to a recent television interview in which Estrada admitted signing the name “Jose Velarde" to bank documents in connection with a P500-million investment management agreement with Equitable PCIBank.

Desierto said the admission reinforced the prosecution's claim that Estrada and Velarde were one and the same person.

Besides plunder, Estrada faces a perjury charge for allegedly falsifying his 1999 Statement of Assets and Liabilities and an illegal use of alias charge for using the name Jose Velarde in bank transactions.

He was also charged with several counts of graft. But these were withdrawn because the charges had been included in the plunder complaint.

These counts were for the P130-million tobacco excise tax scam, the P197.8-million he allegedly collected in commissions in the Belle shares scam using state pension funds, the P500-million in jueteng collections, and the P200 million in funds of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

Desierto said that with the recent appointment by the Sandiganbayan of more public defenders for Estrada, "I'm sure his rights are protected. We are happy with the appointments. There's no reason for further delay."

Estrada had fired his nine private lawyers last month after his disastrous TV interview. He has since refused to participate in his trial, turning the tables on the justice system by saying it was out to convict him at all costs.

Gloria’s secret: It’s in the genes

By Carlito Pablo, *Manila*
and Jun Malig, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

“IT’S in the genes," said President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday on the eve of her 55th birthday to explain how she has managed to stay young-looking despite the burdens of her office.

The President, who will mark her birthday today in Pampanga, said she had a personal wish that only the Filipino people could grant.

“(My birthday wish) is for the (Filipino) people to appreciate the efforts I'm making and for the people to soon see some of the fruits," she told reporters at a press conference at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Ms Macapagal was the guest of honor at the inauguration of the intra-Asia hub of the Atlanta-based cargo delivery firm, United Parcel Service (UPS), at the DMIA and the ceremonial landing of one of its wide-bodied cargo planes called “Lipad Pag-asa."

When asked by a reporter about her secret for staying young, Ms Macapagal smiled and said, "Well, I think it's in the genes."

Applause

Her response elicited laughter and applause from about 300 guests, including government officials, UPS executives and diplomats headed by US Ambassador Francis Joseph Ricciardone Jr.

In the press conference following the symbolic ringing of the UPS bell, Ms Macapagal said it is her faith in God that sustains her through the “burdens of the presidency."

“I never forget my father’s admonition: ‘Do what is right, do your best, and God will take care of the rest,'" she said.

Ms Macapagal said she also wants another set of birthday gifts: the lowering of the prices of rice, medicines and public transportation.

"I want to see to it that we do the things that we are able to do and not the things that we're not able to do," she said.

She said her administration is working for the lowering of the prices of drugs by importing cheaper medicines from India.

Mike’s gift

Ms Macapagal said she had not yet gotten her birthday gift from First Gentleman Jose Miguel “Mike” Arroyo.

“Well, I've not received it yet but I did ask him to organize my birthday celebration," she said.

After an overnight stay at Subic, Zambales, Ms Macapagal will start her day today with a 7 a.m. Mass at the cathedral in Lubao, the birthplace of her father.

Brick-laying

She and former President Corazon Aquino will later lay bricks at the housing settlement site in the Wenceslao area in the same town.

This will be followed by the planting of hybrid rice in Dau 1, also in Lubao, and brunch with farmers in the nipa huts near the paddies.

The President will also interact with supporters belonging to the Kaibigan ni GMA at the Villa Paulino Garden Resort in Lubao.

From Lubao, she will motor to Clark Field to distribute land titles to residents of the Mt. Pinatubo Resettlement Community.

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Harsh words from foes on President's birthday

By Christine Avendaño and Gerald G. Lacuarta

IT may be the 55th birthday today of President Macapagal-Arroyo, but this is apparently no excuse for some people not to unleash harsh words against her.

A rival of the Kilusang Mayo Uno yesterday threw its support behind Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, KMU chair, who was branded a "communist" by Ms Macapagal for criticizing the administration's lack of political will to reduce electricity rates.

The Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, a breakaway group founded by slain labor leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman, urged Beltran to be "steadfast in the struggle against the unjust and anti-poor power rate hike."

"To be attacked by the enemy is a good thing. Ka Bel's (Beltran's) earlier statement that the administration can reduce power rates if it has the political will to do so is correct and legitimate," said Leody de Guzman, BMP secretary general.

De Guzman said Beltran's remarks offended Ms Macapagal "because it repudiated her promise of lower power rates when she lobbied for the Omnibus Power Bill and because she protects the vested interests of the Lopezes and the Aboitizes."

Beltran described the name-calling resorted to by the President as "*salita ng pikon* (words of someone who was peeved)."

He said the President's statement was similar to an earlier one she made that those who were against the war against terrorism were "Abu Sayyaf lovers."

Beltran said the President's temper was once more getting the best of her and that she was more bent on attacking persons than on addressing legitimate demands.

"There is a danger in this: a president who's easily swayed by anger is apt to do vengeful things to quash all opposition," Beltran said. "She's turning out to be the petite version of Joseph McCarthy in Asia."

McCarthy was the American senator who started a witch-hunt against Americans said to be members of the communist movement in the United States in the 1950s.

"She stands for neo-liberalism, for the full privatization, deregulation and liberalization of the economy," Beltran added.

The head of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said it was "better to be called a communist than to be an opportunist and bureaucratic capitalist like the President."

Teodoro Casiño, Bayan secretary general, earlier accused the President of being a "shameless stooge of the Lopezes and the Philippine elite."

Ms Macapagal said she did not see anything wrong with being friends with "capitalists."

"We're in a capitalist system, aren't we? The Filipino people have chosen this system," she replied when told of Bayan Muna's description of her. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan, Agnes Donato***

Meralco warns of brownouts if…

From page A1

vest this year will be reduced significantly, according to Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada.

"This will result in inadequacies in (our distribution) system because it is being abused" without the maintenance and upgrade that added investments could provide, Andrada said.

He likened Meralco's distribution system to a car long overdue for a mechanic's check-up.

The country's largest power distributor has earmarked P6.9 billion in capital expenditures for 2002, but the available funds can only cover 60 percent or P4.14 billion.

Meralco intends to borrow the remaining P2.76 billion from foreign sources, but only if it can raise its charges.

"Whatever amount of rate increase we can get—whether from the petition for a rate hike of 30 centavos per kilowatt-hour or the unbundling application—will allow us to meet demand," Andrada said.

Meralco's petition for a 30-centavo increase on its basic charge has been pending with the energy regulatory body since April of 2000.

Its application for unbundled rates, which will also result in higher charges, has met strong opposition from groups like the party-list Bayan Muna, the Freedom from Debt Coalition, Lawyers against Monopoly and Poverty and the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms.

The Energy Regulatory Commission will continue hearings on Meralco's unbundling application today. Unbundling refers to the breaking down of the electricity bill into its component parts like generation, distribution, supply, metering and universal charges.

Andrada said the failure of Meralco to raise its charges had pushed down its profitability last year to just 3.9 percent.

$200-M debt

This has prompted Meralco to ask its biggest lenders, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, for a waiver on its obligation to maintain a profitability of at least 8 percent.

The World Bank has approved a waiver but the ADB has yet to make a decision. Meralco owes the two banks a total of $200 million.

Meralco officials, who briefed INQUIRER editors Thursday night on the utility firm's petition for a rate increase, said the company's return on rate base, a measure of profitability, would jump from 3.9 percent to 11 percent should it get the rate hike.

Deputy House Speaker Raul Gonzalez wants to know whether Meralco used its earnings to finance the expansion of other Lopez-owned businesses.

Meralco officials assured him that the utility firm's earnings were not "dissipated" in the expansion of other business ventures of the Lopez family.

"I'm happy that they are coming out to say that their books are open, that nothing's hidden and that their transactions are transparent. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER.

Gonzalez received calls from Meralco officials who took exception to his earlier statement that Meralco was seeking a raise in power rates to recoup losses incurred by other Lopez firms.

"They told me the earnings of Meralco were not being dissipated in the expansion (of other Lopez ventures)," Gonzalez said.

He said he turned down an invitation for him to visit Meralco offices and to personally inspect its books.

He said he would rather see the proof during the congressional hearing on Meralco's finances, which he wants conducted as soon as sessions in the House of Representatives resume next week. ***With a report from Juliet L. Javellana***

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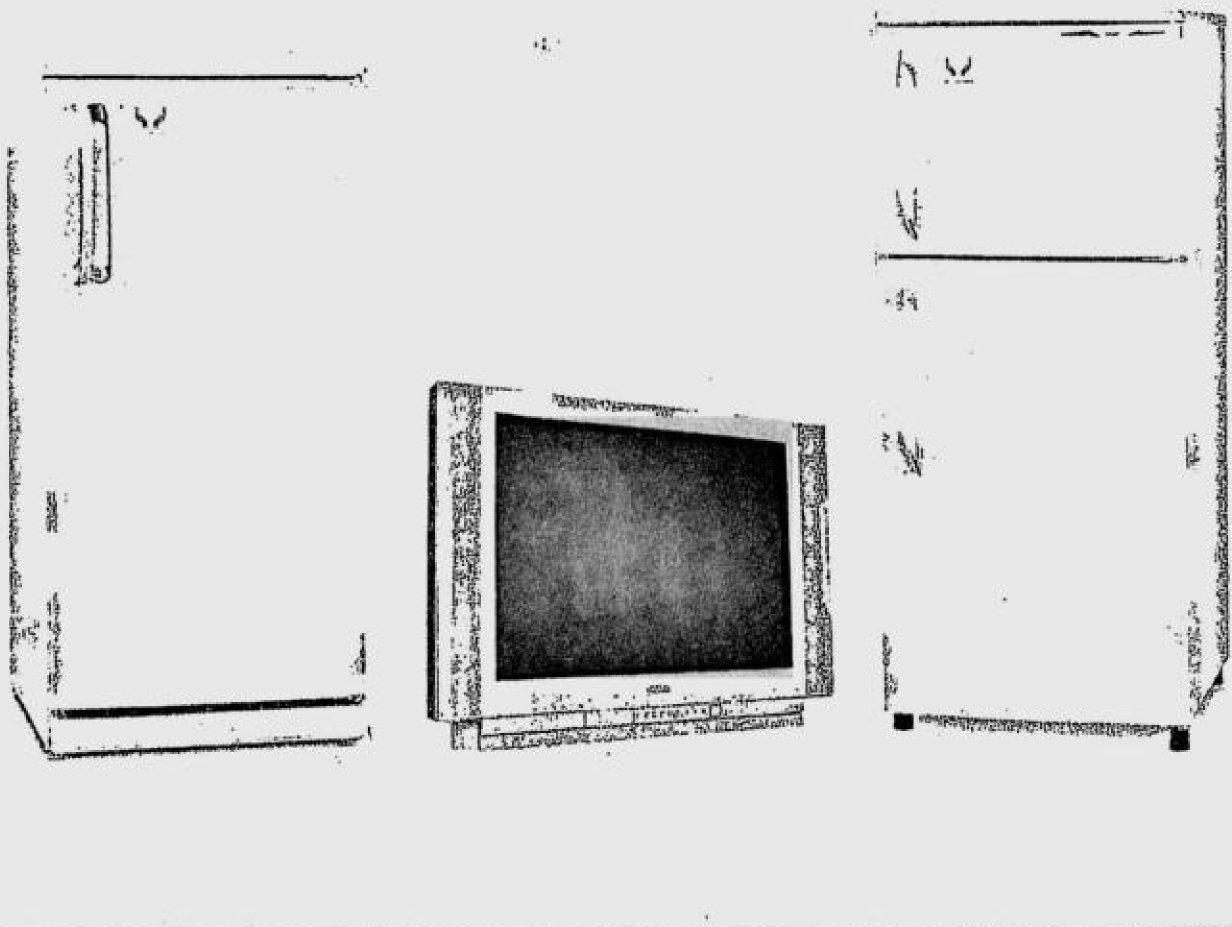

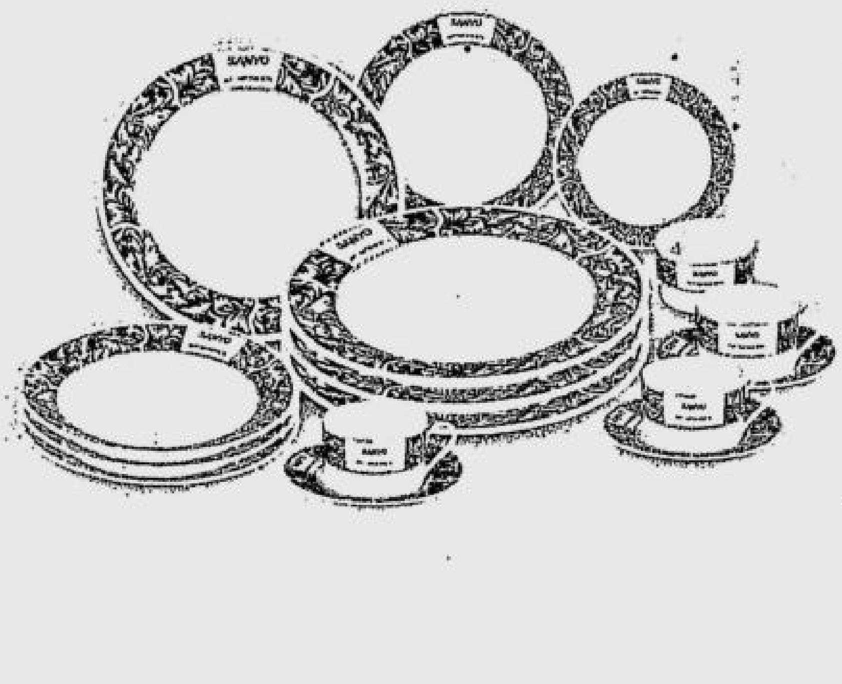

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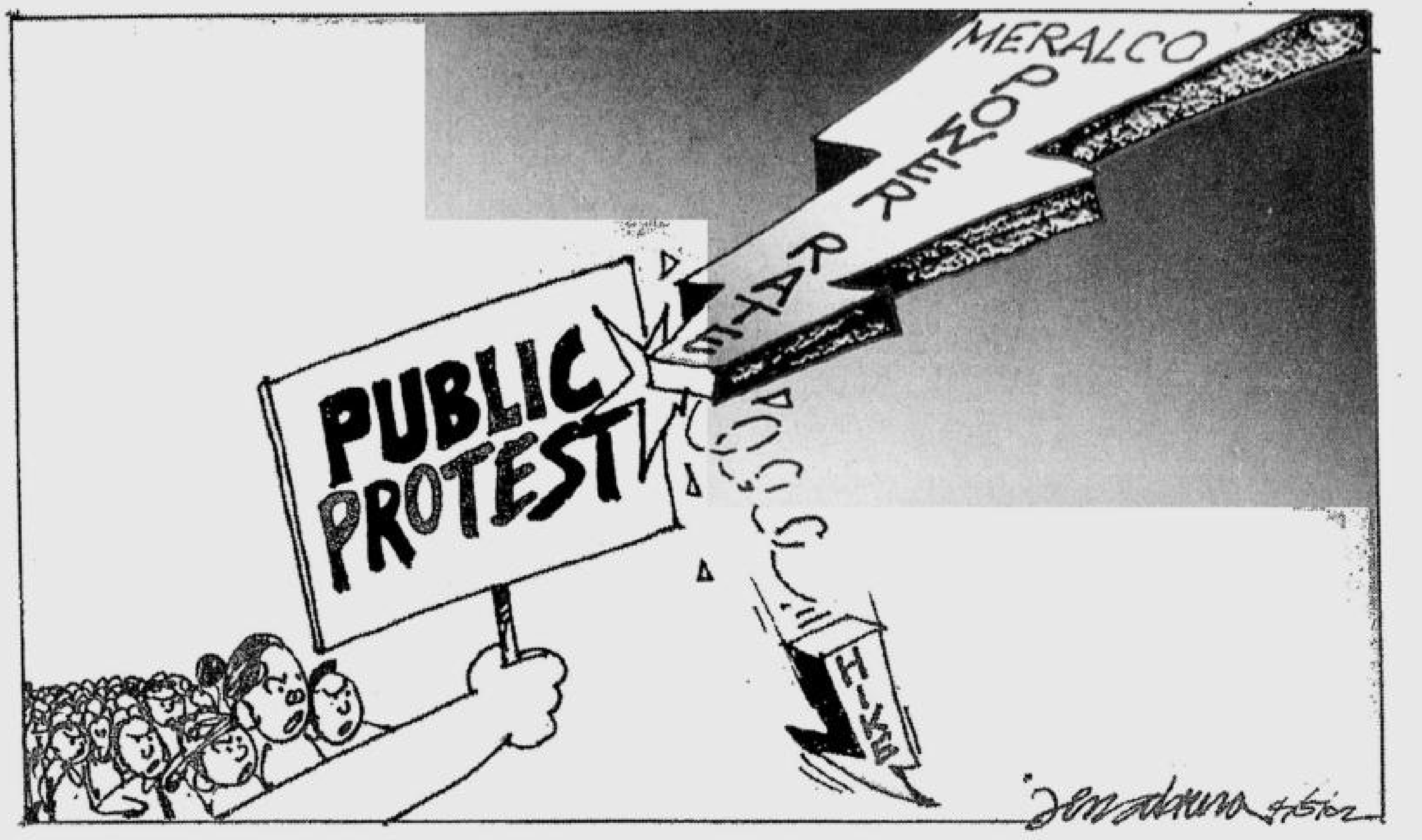


Cha-cha of another kind

EDITORIAL

HER two immediate predecessors pushed hard for a revision of the 1987 Constitution, but President Macapagal-Arroyo wouldn't hear of it. Asked about the move in Congress to rewrite the Constitution in an interview over Bombo Radyo, Ms Macapagal said she would not support it, although she would not stop the lawmakers from working for it. There are so many "very important bills" pending in Congress, and our lawmakers should focus their efforts on getting them passed, she said. Congress can talk about amending the Constitution "after we have overcome poverty in 10 years," she suggested.

It's a point well taken. Congress certainly has a lot of things to do, particularly to get the economy running. As Ms Macapagal pointed out, she submitted 16 urgent bills in June last year, but most of them have been snagged in the legislative mill. Still the problem with legislative priorities isn't insurmountable. Indeed it can be sidestepped if lawmakers would let a constitutional convention do the job instead of working on the amendments themselves in a constituent assembly.

The key issue here is not whether Congress will be distracted from its legislative agenda but whether there is a need to amend the charter. And based on our recent political experience, the answer is yes.

In the last three years, the nation has seen the presidential system malfunctioning in the extreme. First the system of direct election allowed Joseph Estrada, whose intellectual, moral and professional background left much to be desired, to capture the presidency solely on the basis of his popularity. He quickly proved his worst critics right by exhibiting a strong disinclination to work and a great craving for wine, women and wealth from any source. Then his fanatical allies in the Senate stopped dead in its tracks the constitutional process of removing a president who had betrayed his oath, by suppressing the disclosure of damaging evidence against Estrada. That forced an outraged citizenry to resort to an extra-constitutional measure—people power—to drive Estrada out of power. Three months later, loyal fans of Estrada, upon the instigation of his political allies, stormed Malacañang in a vain attempt to put him back in the presidency. The ugly parody of people power that was the May 1 uprising sent the nation to the brink of disaster.

People power, the once peaceful mass movement for changing the national leadership, has become a flirtation with violence and a temptation to military adventurers. It is time to put in place a system of correcting colossal mistakes like Estrada that is less risky than people power but works better than the impeachment process laid out in the Constitution. There must be a better way to defuse the kind of popular disenchantment with an abusive leader that sent people to Edsa in 1986 and 2001 and channel it to a more democratic process of change.

A parliamentary system of government offers that promise. Where a presidential system sets a fixed term for the chief of state, the head of government under a parliamentary system can be removed at any time during his term by a vote of no confidence in parliament. Frequent elections may be hard on the pockets of taxpayers, but the political instability that attended the two people power revolts we have mounted must have been costlier by far.

This is not, of course, the only thing that makes the parliamentary system look much better than the presidential system. Those who are pushing for it can rattle off a dozen other reasons, including the prospect of cleaner elections, a more effective government where the executive is not often checkmated by the legislature, etc. But sparing the nation from the convulsions of another exercise of people power gives greater urgency to the move to amend the Constitution.

The President's disinterest in pushing for amendments should not be a hindrance to Congress where a consensus favoring charter change has evolved. On the contrary, it makes the timing more auspicious. It was the personal agenda of the former presidents that killed the previous initiatives to change the charter. Ms Macapagal's lack of enthusiasm will make the present enterprise less partisan and therefor more acceptable to the people.

It is not only Congress that is keen on amending the Constitution. A survey done by Pulse Asia in December showed 52 percent of the respondents favoring charter change, the first time in a decade that a majority expressed such a preference. Congress should go for it.

GMA OKs deals Erap disapproved. Why?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT was not the genuine Erap after all, the man I interviewed last April Fools' Day, excerpts from which interview were printed here yesterday. No wonder he talked funny. But he sure fooled me—as well as the regulars at the Kapihan sa Manila—because he not only looked like Erap, sounded like Erap, had a wristband just like Erap, but also had a big tummy like Erap and waddled like Erap. But it was a fake Erap. It was acclaimed impersonator and mimic Willie Nepomuceno.

But the person I interviewed on Tuesday was, I am sure, the real Erap—unless Willie was able to smuggle himself into the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. But he had walked in with Sen. Loi Ejercito and surely, the senator would have known whether or not she was with her husband.

Erap revealed many things, and if only half of them were true, this administration and the administration before his, are and were neck deep in corruption. He named several contracts for which he had been offered percentages amounting to billions of pesos as commission but which he had disapproved because they would have been disadvantageous to the government and the people. But those same contracts, he said, were resubmitted to and approved by the Macapagal administration. "To whom did the commissions go?" he asked.

For example, he said, he has turned down the Impsa contract, the controversial power contract with an Argentinian corporation. But two days after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over, he said, she approved it.

"There wasn't even time to review and study it," Erap said. "But it was approved with the speed of lightning. It should be investigated to find out why."

The controversial Jancom contract is another. "I was offered 20 percent commission to approve it," he said, "but I turned it down. That deal is worth P59 billion in 25 years. Twenty percent of that is P11.9 billion! But I rejected it. Now it is about to be approved by the Macapagal government. It needs only her signature. To whom will that P11.9 billion go when she does sign it?"

"Then there is that other foreign company which has a P6 billion claim from a Philippine company. I was offered 15 percent to approve it. Fifteen percent of P6 billion is P900 million. I was offered another 10 percent just to extend its contract with the government. But I turned them both down.

"The committee that reviewed the claims said they were inflated and had double-billings, but now the Department of Finance has approved the whole claim—more than P6 billion, P3 billion more than the earlier approved amount. To whom will the P3 billion go?" Erap asked,

The former President has a good point there. Why are all the questionable contracts he disapproved in spite of generous offers of commissions now suddenly being approved by the present administration? Were the commissions offered increased? To whom did they go?

Erap alleged that the $14 million commission in the power contract has been traced by Sen. Panfilo Lacson to three Hong Kong banks through his contacts there. "$2 million was transferred to an account of a high-ranking government official," Erap claimed. "The rest was transferred to an account of the spouse of another top official."

I am not saying that Erap's revelations are true. I have no evidence one way or another. I am just reporting what he told me. But shouldn't an independent body like the Ombudsman or Congress investigate them? They constitute plunder many times over.

Erap insisted he had not stolen a single peso from the government. Even if they are able to prove that the money in the Jose Velarde account is *jueteng* money, he said, that is private money, not government money.

"And it was not spent. It was deposited in a bank," he said.

Erap stressed he had not approved a single shady contract. The Department of Justice got all the contracts he approved, he said, to look for anything shady. "They have not found anything until now."

On the other hand, why don't they investigate the contracts approved by the administration before mine, he said. They will find kickbacks and corruption there. He cited the contracts with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), the PEA-Amari deal, the Centennial Project, etc. The IPP contracts were the ones that made the National Power Corp. bankrupt, he said. They will find plunder all over the place.

"But no, I am the one facing plunder charges," Erap said. "And my predecessor is traipsing all over the world as an ambassador of goodwill. I have not stolen a single peso from the government, I have not signed a single anomalous contract, yet I am the one charged with plunder. But look at the records and you will find many questionable contracts in previous administrations," he said.

Erap repeated his mantra that he has been singled but for persecution. The Supreme Court created a special court just to try him, just like Yamashita. They've already decided I'm guilty before the trial even starts, he said. "*Wala akong kalabanlaban*," he said.

He dared the justice department to bring Atong Ang home to testify against him. "But give him bail, so he can talk freely," he said. "The prosecution threatens witnesses, like the SSS and GSIS heads, so how can you expect them to tell the truth? They are threatened with prosecution, so they say what they were told to say."

Is the Macapagal administration railroading the cases against Erap? What do you think?

* * *

Comments to asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

The day the music died

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MY favorite anecdote about Levi Celerio comes from Greg Macabenta. Macabenta, who started out writing scripts for Tagalog movies, recalls that Celerio, who also wrote songs for the movies, had a tremendous, if somewhat offbeat, sense of humor.

Many years ago, Celerio apparently once hopped on a bus in Cubao bound for Monumento after asking the conductor if there were still seats available. Or as he put it in Tagalog, *"May upuan pa ba?"* The conductor had said yes, but Celerio, after reaching the rear of the bus, found no empty ones. In fact the bus was crammed full of people. He berated the conductor when the fellow got to him with his ticket. "I thought you said there were still seats," he said. The conductor, a Pilosopong Tasyo, replied with a laugh, "I said there were seats, I did not say they were not taken."

After a while they got to Nepa Q Mart, which at that time had a back street. Buses went around it if there were passengers getting off there. The conductor asked loudly if anyone was going there, or as he put it in Tagalog, *"May dadaan ba rito?"* Celerio shouted yes, and so the bus took the detour. When they got to the bus stop, Celerio remained on his seat. The conductor, not very amused, shouted at him, "I thought you said you were getting off here." Celerio, who was a Pilosopong Tasyo himself, replied, "I said I was passing by here, I did not say I was getting off here."

I do not know how much of that is true. The story, according to Macabenta, came from Celerio himself. He loved to tell those stories about himself and his contemporaries while he loafed around in the movie set, waiting for inspiration, or the paycheck. Everyone who knew him, however, agreed on one thing. He had a gift for telling stories, he had a gift for words.

The gift for telling stories, only his friends, or his protégés—as most of his friends would be dead now—will probably know. The gift for words, the world does know. Celerio was 92 when he died last Tuesday. He left behind a legacy of 4,000 songs, a massive output by any standards. The songs are impressive not just for their range, embracing as they do everything from the serious to the comic—from the sublime to the paralytic, as another great who passed away a decade ago, E. Aguilar Cruz, used to put it—but for their quality. The most sublime things aspire toward simplicity, as Einstein once said, and Celerio's songs are that. The words are simple yet capture so uncannily the sentiments of the Filipino.

There's no better proof of that than that they've stood the test of time and become part of national lore, like the fiesta and Simbang Gabi. It's almost impossible now to think of Christmas without "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit," weddings without "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" or "Gaano Kita Kamahal," and funerals without "Lagi Kitang Naaalala." I heard the last blaring out from the crude loudspeaker of a hearse once. And of course, who doesn't now know the lullaby called "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan"? The title alone is simplicity and resonance at their best.

Talking of "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan," Celerio's passing was doubly mournful because it came only a couple of days after Lucio San Pedro's own demise. Celerio wrote the words, San Pedro wrote the music of that song. Even in death, as Pablo Tariman and Lito Zulueta suggested in an article last Wednesday, the two seemed to play duet. Different folks, different strokes, or beats.

San Pedro was another titan in Philippine music, a fierce nationalist—showing not quite incidentally the folly of those who think nationalism is a bad word—who won numerous awards for music that extolled the Filipino struggle to be free. Formally trained in music, San Pedro was not beyond writing popular songs alongside classical compositions. He wrote scores for Filipino movies, when Filipino movies were still Filipinos movies. That is to say, when they still had enormous pride and did not use canned music in lieu of original compositions.

In one fell swoop, Philippine music has been deeply impoverished. One is tempted to say that Celerio and San Pedro defined their generation, but they did considerably more than that: They defined the national soul, or an aspect of it that will live for all time. The concept of a "Filipino music" is not an easy one to spell out, as I myself saw firsthand during the Pinoy Music Awards. The idea of that award was to spark the writing of music that was uniquely Pinoy, but when we came down to discussing what was uniquely Pinoy, we couldn't pin it down.

Maybe someone will eventually write a masterful thesis on the subject, but until that happens we have the works of Levi Celerio and Lucio San Pedro to give us an idea of what it is. These are the songs of which the Filipino life cycle is made, the songs of his birth, his nurturing, his loving, his living, his dying. You listen to them and you know, even if you cannot put it in words—indeed even if Celerio himself could not put it in words—that you are hearing echoes of the national soul.

Observing a minute or two of silence is one way to honor their passing, if only to remind us of the truly mellifluous sounds we have lost. Even better would be for AM and FM to host a day, or even a week of tribute to the two. For them to forget about Linkin' Park and Salbacuta for a while, and play nothing but the music of Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio. Who knows? Maybe a generation of Filipinos raised in metal, grunge, hip hop, gangsta rap and everything in-between will discover a fabulous inheritance they never knew they had.

Who knows? Maybe like Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday, the day San Pedro died, San Pedro and Celerio may yet find their own resurrection in the hearts and minds—and ears—of a people they loved.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

An initiative whose time has come

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is set on a collision course with a groundswell in Congress clamoring sweeping amendments to the 1987 Constitution. Although she cannot stop Congress from initiating constitutional change, she has served notice that she would not back the move.

President Macapagal douses cold water on rumblings in the House of Representatives whose committee on constitutional amendments has already passed a resolution seeking to convene the country's 42,000 barangays to crystallize their views on constitutional change.

The President says that there are more important concerns facing Congress than fiddling with the Constitution. Congress still has to deliver on the legislative agenda outlined in her State of the Nation Address, she says. Congress can begin to consider constitutional change "after we have overcome poverty in 10 years." Under this timetable there can never be a charter change because there's no way poverty can be overcome in 10 years, even assuming that she will be reelected to a full term of six years in 2004.

Her opposition to the congressional initiative puts her outside the loop of most Filipino presidents who have tried to alter the Constitution beginning with Manuel Quezon who succeeded in 1940 to change the 1935 Constitution with the extension of the presidential term of a single six-year term to two four-year terms and with the adoption of a unicameral National Assembly. Manuel Roxas introduced the parity amendment to the Constitution in 1946. Ferdinand Marcos radically replaced the 1935 Constitution with the authoritarian 1973 Constitution. Corazon Aquino restored democracy in the 1987 Constitution. Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada tried but failed to change the 1987 charter, with Ramos seeking to lift the six-year term limit, and with Estrada seeking to change the nationalist economic provisions of the charter.

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

President Macapagal's own social and economic policy does not reveal any hint of a structural social reform to shift wealth to the poor in the magnitude of the agrarian reform program of her father, President Diosdado Macapagal. Her own poverty alleviation program is not backed by a redistribution formula and significant resources. It is merely a palliative to try to calm the poor from joining the ranks of malcontents who, up until now, are being manipulated by deposed President Estrada and his cohorts to back his losing battle to either return to power or to save himself from being convicted for plunder charges in the Sandiganbayan.

Whether the President likes it or not, the clamor for constitutional change will gain, rather than lose, intensity. The engine that drives this initiative, the powerful lesson left by the crisis that drove Estrada out of office is that the presidential system became so inflexible to accommodate the demand for change in government, causing a gridlock that paralyzed the nation for more than one year during the last crisis.

The stalemate was broken only through extra-electoral and extra-constitutional means—the so-called people power. This method of change left the legacy of not only creating a continuing legitimacy challenge to her accession to the presidency but also of creating opportunities for adversaries of her regime to seek ways to create political instability.

It is precisely to avert another stand-off, with the virus to create a national economic and political paralysis, that moves are growing in Congress to change the presidential system to the parliamentary system. The need for this shift is at the heart of the congressional initiative. For every challenge to her government's legitimacy and every attempt to unsettle it, either by coup plots or just plain political guerrilla action by the opposition, the impulses for constitutional change are deriving momentum. Riding on the back of this initiative is the issue of replacing the unitary, highly centralized system of government with a federal system. The federal option derives its force from the Islamic rebellion in Mindanao, and its proponents, especially Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., argue that if the nation were divided into relatively political and economic federal states, the aspirations of Filipino Muslims for greater political autonomy can be accommodated within a federal framework.

The federal system does not want for successful and functional models among democratic states, including the United States, Australia, Canada and Germany.

President Macapagal's opposition to the clamor for constitutional change is not the crucial variable on whether there will be a shift to the parliamentary system within the next 10 years. The impetus and force for constitutional change will be driven by events that have something to do with whether she can survive the turbulence of political instability and the collateral threat of military intervention each time people flood the streets in protest against corruption, bad governance or incompetence in economic management.

In the aftermath of the turbulence of the fall of Estrada, the need for a more flexible framework for regime change is emphasized. And the parliamentary option is gaining appeal in the light of the constitutional impasse of 2000-2001. The President cannot stop the idea of constitutional change from overflowing over the crater of an active volcano. It is forcing its way into the frontline of the national agenda faster than the controlled pace desired by the President.

Money and getting even

LAWYER Clara Padilla of the Reproductive Rights Resource Group (3RG) and I were guests Wednesday evening in "Point Blank," hosted by Ces Orena-Drilon. The show's topic was sexual harassment, occasioned by the recent landmark decision of the Supreme Court upholding the ruling of the Sandiganbayan finding a former city health officer of Cagayan de Oro guilty of sexual harassment. This marks the first time the Supreme Court has ruled on a case of sexual harassment, validating this newly minted crime (following passage of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law of 1995) as a serious legal concern. The producers also invited, via remote broadcast from Cagayan de Oro, the complainant Juliet Yee, lawyer Reynaldo Llego (who with wife Remy handled the case pro bono) and a woman lawyer connected with Gabriela.

While I hope the show provided viewers information and insights they need to fully understand the issue, that episode was significant for me because it was my first time to "meet" Juliet, whose case I had been following for the last seven years but whom I had never met in person. Now a married woman due to give birth to her first child, Juliet, outwardly at least, doesn't seem at all the "type" who would brave social ostracism and countless legal obstacles to seek justice. When Dr. Jacutin made his advances, thinking perhaps he had found easy prey in the young, innocent applicant for a nursing position, he couldn't have been more wrong. Tough luck!

* * *

BUT it was a night of surprises as well. The biggest of these has to be the "revelation" made by Ces off the camera's range after the show's end, that she herself had been a victim of sexual harassment.

"This was years ago," Ces said, recounting how her immediate superior, the head of the network's news department, pounced on her while she was all alone in the small studio kitchen and proceeded to kiss her. She was at the time already married with children, but Ces recalls she chose not to file a complaint because of another case involving another

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

woman reporter and the same news executive. "She was laughed off the network," Ces remarks of that reporter's fate after she filed a formal complaint with the studio bosses. Ces chose to keep her counsel, but waited for two years before agreeing to appear in a public affairs show on the topic of sexual harassment which aired in the rival network. "I guess that was my way of getting even and cleansing myself of the experience," she says, though she still refused to publicly name the executive.

"And you know what? He's still around, though he has lost his executive position. And since then, he's not dared approach any of the women here," Ces observed. Which just boosts the feminist position, I said, that sexual harassment is a crime born not of lust or sexual temptation, but of power and domination. If a man sees himself holding the ultimate power to hire or fire women, he may indeed begin to see himself as holding proprietary and predatory sexual rights over them as well.

* * *

ONE of the issues raised in "Point Blank" was the decision by the Supreme Court (written by Associate Justice Jose Vitug and concurred in by the four other members of the Third Division) to modify the amount of damages awarded by the Sandiganbayan.

The Sandiganbayan awarded Yee P300,000 in moral damages and P200,000 in exemplary damages. The Supreme Court reduced the amount to P30,000 and P20,000 respectively, just 10 percent of the original award, arguing that "moral damages are not intended to enrich a complainant but are awarded only to enable an injured party obtain some means that would help obviate the sufferings sustained on account of the culpable action of an offender." The decision added that the award "must always reasonably approximate the extent of injury and be proportional to the wrong committed."

In a letter, Rey and Remy Llego said the huge reduction in the award was "*okey lang sa amin* (fine with us)," noting that Juliet was not after money but the attainment of justice and truth. "And you know that our legal services were rendered pro bono."

* * *

BUT I wonder...If you were Juliet Yee, suffering the emotional, psychological and even physical trauma of being fondled against your will, then living through seven years of uncertainty and unwanted publicity, would you think P50,000 was enough compensation?

I think not even P10 million could completely assuage the bad feelings—but then that's just me. But still, why give Juliet just 10 percent of the original award?

If, as Padilla noted in the show, the Supreme Court said the award of damages has to be "commensurate" to the offense, by reducing the amount to 10 percent was the high tribunal somehow demeaning, if not trivializing the effect of sexual harassment, on its victims? Was it saying sexual harassment, while condemnable, didn't "hurt" its victims all that much? How do they know?

Winning her long legal battle (barring a successful appeal by Jacutin) may be enough vindication for Juliet and her family. But as John Travolta said in "A Civil Action": "the money is the apology." The size of the award approximates, even if it cannot fully compensate for, the severity of the offense and the extent of the damage done. A huge award would have been a huge collective "sorry" not just from Jacutin, but from his friends in high places who protected him, and from a tolerant society which allowed him to pursue his long career as a sexual harasser, now ended, I hope.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

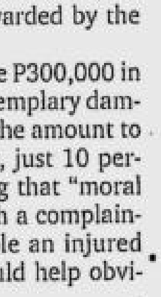
In search of literature on 'bangungot'

MY fascination for *bangungot* began when I read the classic work by Maximo D. Ramos titled "Creatures of Midnight." Unlike his gutless academic publications, this illustrated book appealed to me because in very simple language and pictures it provided a survey of all the creatures of lower Philippine mythology. You were taught to recognize and deal with: *aswang, tianak, mangkukulam*, etc. However, growing up in Manila did not provide opportunities for me to use this esoteric knowledge. No one my age believed in *tianaks* and *aswangs*, but the *bangungot* was memorable because it continues to kill people to this day.

Going through the card catalogue of the Augustinian Library in Valladolid, Spain, I was overjoyed to find a 17th-century report concerning many single men dying in Manila. I immediately requested a photocopy of the entire manuscript hoping I had found the earliest documented case of *bangungot* in Philippine history. My discovery was a dud. The report was on a *cofradia* or religious brotherhood which had grown rich from the property of all the Manila bachelors who had joined. Upon taking religious vows, they willed their wealth and property to the *cofradia* which even remitted this to a mother house in Mexico and Spain. Disgruntled relatives contested the wills of the deceased and demanded their rightful share in the inheritance. While there was no indication of foul play in the deaths of these bachelors (*solteros*), the document is a starting point for a thriller.

E-mail reaction to my last column led me to an Internet search on *bangungot* and I found so many interesting leads I cannot pursue. For example, there is a more general medical term other than *bangungot* or acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis—Sudden Unexplained Nocturnal Death Syndrome or SUNDS. Contrary to popular belief, *bangungot* is not specific to Filipinos. There are other Southeast Asians who die of SUNDS leading the US

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Center for Disease Control in 1981 to issue a report on the mortality and morbidity of Southeast Asian refugees who died of SUNDS. In 1990, studies were made on SUNDS deaths of Thai construction workers in Singapore. Attempts were made to pinpoint the cause of *bangungot*: thiamine deficiency, potassium pseudomonas and pseudomallei, refugee stress, etc.

I even found cases decided by the Supreme Court of the Philippines that concerned *bangungot*. In these cases, relatives of the deceased were denied compensation on grounds that the deaths were not job-related. Although the men died in bed, far from the place of work, the Supreme Court ruled otherwise. *Bangungot* is a "theoretical disease" whose cause, pathology and cure have not been accurately and scientifically determined but the Court was inclined to see some connection between work and death in *bangungot* cases. Surely, the documentary evidence on these cases would feed another *bangungot* column. While I hope that more research on *bangungot* would follow the death of Rico Yan, we are left with the following:

Bangungot, acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis or SUNDS normally afflicts men between the ages of 22 and 45 years old. Many of the victims are in good health and have no previous history of heart disease. Death is usually traced to a heart attack and the bodies of the victims are often found in a supine position—on their backs in bed. Death is said to occur in the third sleep cycle, whatever that is, and often some moaning (*ungol*) is heard shortly before death. There is little or no movement before the victim expires, there is no struggle which is why 50 percent of the cases go unnoticed even by people who were on the same bed as the victim! Finally, all the victims are found with a fixed or "terrified" facial expression.

There are various theories as to the cause of *bangungot*. First concerns diet. Yan's last meal was seafood. Filipinos and other Asians also like seafood or season their food with liberal doses of *patis* or *bagoong* so the theory is that too much causes auto-intoxication, affecting the heart and pancreas. New rice is also suspect. The second theory is that *bangungot* is merely a heart attack. Third is the "mechanical theory," arguing that a heavy meal before sleeping causes indigestion and undue pressure on the heart. Fourth is the "nightmare theory" that says the victim is so scared during a nightmare that hemorrhaging occurs in the heart leading to respiratory failure. Then there are other theories that blame stress (both mental and emotional) and sex.

The sex theory is material for tabloids. Writing in 1948, Dr. Alvin Majoska, a coroner in Hawaii, refers to an elaborate mechanical contraption invented by an expatriate Filipino to prevent *bangungot*. Despite the machine, the inventor died of *bangungot*. Dr. Majoska photographed the device when the corpse was brought to the morgue. For the past decade I have been trying in vain to find Dr. Majoska's report and the famous photograph of the anti-*bangungot* device which I imagine to be similar and restrictive to an 18th-century male corset used in France to discourage onanism or masturbation. Paradoxically, *bangungot* research leads to many avenues but we are still far from an explanation and a cure.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Paris street market

MAROONED by a touch of flu and winter, to which I am unaccustomed, I viewed Paris on January 2002 from a sixth floor window that looked down on a housewives' market which arrived three times a week: Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. By habit, I woke up at 5 a.m.—even in Paris. I drew aside the curtain to decide how many layers of clothes to wear for the day: six layers if the sky was brooding, only five if there was a sunrise.

By 5 a.m., some market people were already setting up stalls. These were aluminum poles covered with aluminum fold-out panels. They were set up the night before and immediately removed when the market closed an hour past noon. The stalls were on the sidewalk of each side of the street where I lived, Rue de la Convention in the 15th city district of Paris, and stretched for four blocks. One mild day when the sun was out, I walked the entire double stretch of the market, eight blocks in all, and got dizzy. Not sick-dizzy but bedazzled-dizzy. I was stunned further when I bought 10 pieces of large Madagascar shrimps for 3.60 euros, the rough equivalent of P170 or P17 per shrimp.

HIGH BLOOD

Mary V. Vidal

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves.'—**Ed.**

Across the street, right below my window one morning, two men were unloading crates. It was still dark and they moved briskly. Two hours later when I dashed out for coffee at the corner café, I saw that the men were selling large unshucked oysters. "Must be from Brittany," said Dana, my daughter-in-law who is a Paris resident and knows the street market well. "They arrived early to avoid the morning traffic."

Right outside the door of the building where I lived, the stall was selling pickled and preserved olives, beans and vegetables, which I found thoroughly uninteresting. But to the left of the door, one stall beyond the display of artificial plants and flowers, was the display of dairy items: loaves, wheels and balls of soft and hard cheese, jugs of fresh milk, tubs of yogurt. Also on display were baskets of brown eggs. Every time I peeked into this stall, there was a long queue of customers. My son grinned and said that from this stall he always got the cheese *pasalubong* for us when he went on home leave. He also showed me the meat stall from which he got the bacon bits that he and Dana made into *longganisang Lucban à la Francais*.

Everything was in this market. Persian rugs, mattresses and bed linens, towels, tablecloths and napkins, baskets, pails and basins, music tapes and CDs, fancy jewelry (which always had the most number of women of all ages sorting and trying out the baubles), books, bags, shoes, clothes in addition to cooked food and fish, meat and vegetables to cook but no wines. Too delicate, the wines are in the permanent stores, called caves, at nearly every block or two to a block in this and the other middle-class neighborhoods of Paris.

Everything else is presumably less expensive in the street market—minimal rental, minimal tax, the owner is the seller, maybe even the producer. Ofie Tequi, the Filipino artist who is a longtime resident of Paris, says that a true Parisian buys from the street markets, hardly ever at the department stores. Since I was only on a visit to Paris, I was glad I did not have to buy anything. For the euro made me see the true worth of things. If before I was in a fog about thousands of liras in Italy, tens of pesetas in Spain or hundreds of francs in France, it was very clear to me that a euro is worth 98 US cents and therefore at least P52. So a big cup of *café au lait* was 2.20 euros or over a hundred pesos and a croissant was one euro or P51. That was breakfast in a café in Paris, nearly P160 with tip. No wonder my son and his wife make their own *longganisa*.

I asked my son if a man's average wage in Paris is enough to buy him and his family a good meal from the street market. He did not have the figures but he presumed from his own buying experience, that it could but barely. An employee in a French company at mid-management level, his income looks handsome on paper but is grievously decimated by the over 40-percent income tax he pays. I am glad that by nature and upbringing he is parsimonious, a saving grace when spending the euro. He and Dana save even further by not buying fresh—such as salmon fillets—but by going to the bulk frozen food store where, across the board, items are from 20 to 40 percent less than fresh produce. All across France, fresh is premium—how else do they have French cuisine?

Meat, fish and vegetables of a variety, quantity and quality that I do not see often, breads and pastries for which France is known (baguettes, galettes, quiches), cheeses and sausages or other culinary challenges that I have only read about (black unplucked partridge and boar's head)—they are just out there on the sidewalks of the street where I lived this winter in Paris. It was liberating not to have to buy anything, except once some shrimps for lunch and quite often some clementine oranges for the Vitamin C so necessary in winter. Why liberating? I felt free and detached because I did not have to calculate how far my euro would go, how to bargain in sign language, where to queue (in Paris, they are always lining up), how I would cook the lamb shoulder and what wine would go with the swordfish. I am accustomed to far simpler fare. It delights me to think that here, back home, one euro is P50, more or less, and enough to buy four large freshly smoked *galunggong tinapa* that goes well with new Laguna rice and sweet tomatoes now in season.

Mary V. Vidal, 63, lives and works in Pasig City. A widow, she has two daughters and five sons, one of whom works in Paris. On weekends, she runs an inn in Laguna.

THEY SAID

Real benefits

"Growth statistics are meaningless to the jobless. Low inflation is irrelevant to the penniless. A reduced budget deficit cannot be an argument to butter up the morale of hungry people."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conceding the masses had yet to feel the benefits of economic recovery

Impeachment propensity

"He's prone to filing impeachment complaints."

—San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora on lawyer Crispin Reyes and his impeachment complaint against Supreme Court justices

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Legalizing prostitution will worsen matters

I WOULD like to comment on your editorial titled "A closer look at prostitution." (PDI, 3/12/02) I belong to a non-government organization serving prostituted women in Quezon City. The "misquoted" statement of Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas (she clarified later that she was only asking for a review of the law) regarding the legalization of prostitution is imprudent. Legalization will not protect prostituted persons from abuse and exploitation. It will all the more benefit those profiteers such as the bar owners, pimps, recruiters and traffickers while more women and children will be recruited into prostitution to cater to the demand for sexual services by men.

In a research done in Victoria, Australia where prostitution is legal, the author said that "legalization in Victoria has perpetuated the culture of violence and exploitation that is inherent in prostitution. The new liberalized climate has facilitated the expansion and diversification of the industry." Legislators did not anticipate the "businessmen's" exploitative ways of making more money in which women are subjected to further sexual abuse.

Legalization of prostitution will only serve those who profit from it and it will all the more reduce women and children to a commodity serving the sexual needs of men. Even the women we know who are caught in the system expressed their disagreement with legalization. They themselves don't want to stay in this "job" for good. They never dreamed of becoming prostitutes. The lack of options for employment pushes women to resort to prostitution. Over the years of reaching out to and working with women in prostitution, we have witnessed and heard from our women friends the atrocities done to them by police officers and their customers. As it is inevitable to experience violence from their customers, it is even more dreadful for the women to experience exploitation and cruelty in the hands of the authorities, who legitimize their maltreatment in the name of Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code, the law on vagrants and prostitutes.

The current laws prohibit prostitution and at the same time indirectly regulate it by having an ordinance requiring bar girls to secure a health clearance from sexually transmitted diseases (which is for the protection of the customers and not for women). These laws are supposed to curb prostitution; instead they contributed to its proliferation. These laws are supposed to protect the helpless but instead were made an instrument in violating the rights of women. The flaw lies on the focus. Prostitution laws center only on women who are seen as the seductress, the culprits. But it is not so. Prostitution is all about the system which commodifies women and children, whose bodies are exploited to deliver sexual services to men or their representatives, for profit. It is a structure of exploitative and harmful acts on both women and children, regardless of age and alleged individual choice.

Yes, it's about time Congress reviewed the inconsistency and discriminatory laws on prostitution. The law on vagrancy which is used to arrest women causes more damage and violence against women in prostitution. The profiteers of prostitution should be the ones penalized and not the women. The Anti-Prostitution Act, Senate Bill 1862 which was filed by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, would be a better solution to "curb" prostitution. This bill seeks to penalize the real culprits of prostitution—the bar managers, customers, pimps, recruiters, traffickers, promoters and organizers of prostitution, while prostituted persons will not be treated as criminals but victims of the system of prostitution. Instead, prostituted persons will be channeled for rehabilitation in which our government will provide programs for women such as livelihood assistance, counseling and many others. We support the passage of this bill to minimize, if not eradicate prostitution, and treat women and children with dignity and respect.

—JENNY GALVEZ, coordinator, Samaritana Transformation Ministries Inc., QCCPO Box 1642, Diliman, Quezon City

Parents of terrorism and poverty

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in her speech during the Philippine Army's 105th anniversary and the Philippine Military Academy graduation, described poverty and terrorism as the twin sisters that are the major problems of the country. She did not say that corruption in high government office is the mother, and she could have added that the exploding population is the father.

To make reference to the mother would have offended several members of her inner circle of advisers. To make reference to the father would have incurred the ire of the Catholic Church. The more stressful aspect of the President's life is the tightrope she has to walk, not the early "*tilaok ng manok*." But until she is able to deal effectively with the former, she cannot be a good President even if she gave away all the government's land, kissed all the babies that need a bath and danced and sang the latest hits with the brightest stars of filmdom. Assuming that by the charm and charisma of the movie stars, the masses can be won over to her side, will we solve their problem before they are again driven to the streets by a sense of betrayal on account of unfulfilled promises?

A new Presidential Anti-Graft Commission has been organized under Dario Rama. He is giving the impression of hitting the ground running with over a hundred cases lined up for prosecution. We will soon see what the outcome will be.

But how high in the bureaucracy will Rama aim? Cleaning up the top would almost invariably result in the withering of the branches of corruption. Leaving the top alone would make the effort almost useless.

Have we seen the last of Pacifico Marcelo and are we now content that P1.4 billion is in the coffers of a meritorious NGO by the clever contrivance of finance department and banking rules? RCBC stockholders must be content with having a P10-billion investment that will earn 11 percent at a time when the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is trying to force the banking system to reduce lending rates.

How about the Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System executives who faithfully applied the rules on augmentation of their incomes as the two institutions precipitously tittered on the brink of bankruptcy?

The parents (corruption in high government office and exploding population) of the vicious twin sisters (poverty and terrorism) will have to be dealt with seriously with iron will and determination before we can find peace.

—E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City

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Senator Arroyo's non-existent written record

WHEN it comes to oral advocacy, we have to give it to Sen. Joker Arroyo. He has the uncanny ability to dish out the most propitious riposte to every burning issue of the day:

1. At the onset of Balikatan 02-1, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo branded the "antis" as supporters of the Abu Sayyaf and anti-Filipino. Thereafter came Senator Arroyo's repartee that nobody could deny every Filipino his or her birthright.

2. Arroyo's "shut-up Ani" tirade after Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's alleged advice-cum-warning to Rep. Mark Jimenez to testify against former President Estrada in the Sandiganbayan or face immediate extradition to the United States.

3. After the release of the recent Social Weather Stations survey showing the Senate with a net approval rating of -4 percent, Arroyo blamed his colleagues in the opposition for the shameful Senate rating. He cited the penchant of opposition senators for "endless investigations" as the culprit and urged them instead to concentrate on lawmaking.

For one who voted for him in the last election, I wish Arroyo were as effective in the other facets of senatorial work. The first regular session of the 12th Congress will be over in three months. Yet, the blue ribbon committee has a zero output in terms of committee report. Better still, how many referrals to this committee have been disposed of qualitatively? Moreover, what Senate bills has he filed so far categorizing those which are of his own initiative and those he co-authored with the original proponents?

There is an adage that warns those who live in glass houses not to throw stones at their neighbors. Thus, Arroyo would be better off looking at the mirror inside his glass office first before playing hero at the expense of his colleagues.

I remember that column of retired Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz in the INQUIRER a few months back that delved on his talk with Arroyo with regard to the blue ribbon report concerning the supposed involvement of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in illegal drugs. Arroyo's reply then, according to Cruz, was that the evidence presented to the blue ribbon was still being evaluated by a private law firm.

Say it ain't so, Mr. Senator. Why should a private law firm do the evaluation? Does the Senate have a budget for this? If none, do you mean to tell us that this private law firm was doing it for free? And what is this law firm?

To my knowledge, all Senate committees, the blue ribbon included, have capable staffers who can prepare and draft committee reports. And the finalization of which is the sole responsibility of the committee chair without prejudice to the prerogative of every senator-member of the committee to concur or dissent or prepare a separate concurring or dissenting report.

The Senate journals chronicle the privilege speeches delivered on the Senate floor, resolutions, bills and committee reports authored and filed by the likes of Senators Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada and Ambrosio Padilla. They are three of the more esteemed statesmen with whom Arroyo was being compared or likened to.

I submit that the comparison is misplaced and does not have any basis at all. Unless Arroyo transcends his advocacy from the run-of-the-mill "praise releases" to things which by their very nature must be documented in writing to form part of the legislative annals.

Conclusively, there is no difference up to now between his track record as a senator for almost a year from his record as a Makati representative for nine years. Arroyo is still averse to written advocacy which is a more solid gauge of worthy legislative performance.

—ABELARDO P. DE JESUS, Robinsons Tower I, Padre Faura Street, Manila

Defending Representative Syjuco

THIS is in defense of Rep. Augusto Syjuco's actuations during the approval in Congress of the SPAV (Special Purpose Asset Vehicles Act of 2002) Bill which won him the ire of the House leadership as well as his partymates.

I believe Syjuco was only doing his job when he fiscalized some legislative measures for the public good. Instead of stripping him of his chairmanship of committees and expelling him from his party, the House leadership should take cognizance of his reasons rather than persecute him. Why not give him another chance?

—AL TUPAS, councilor, Lupon, Davao Oriental

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Angry Egypt cuts Israel contacts

CAIRO—Amid mounting Arab frustration with Israeli attacks against Palestinians, Egypt scaled back contacts with the Israeli government on Wednesday but left its vital diplomatic channels open.

REUTERS

A PALESTINIAN boy in a black mask smiles during a break in fighting close to the Nativity church in Bethlehem April 3.

"Government-to-government contacts are stopped. Diplomatic channels remain open," a senior Egyptian official said.

"The cabinet issued a decree that all contacts between the two governments would stop, short of diplomatic channels which will serve the Palestinian question and the issue of peace in the region," he said.

Analysts said the decision to stop direct contacts between the two governments but keep embassies open was a largely symbolic move to show Egypt's anger at Israel's policies while ensuring ties between the neighbors continued.

But some said the gesture might not be enough to calm a restive public which has held daily protests since Friday against Israel's invasion of several West Bank towns and its siege on Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's headquarters.

Egypt withdrew its ambassador from Tel Aviv in November 2000 to protest Israel's handling of a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. Israel has kept its ambassador in Cairo.

Another Egyptian official emphasized that the latest move did not affect diplomatic representation in the two countries, which forged the first Arab-Israeli peace deal in 1979.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson said in an initial response to the Egyptian decision: "In such a sensitive and problematic time, it would be better to strengthen ties and not reduce them."

The United States urged its key Middle Eastern ally to keep in close touch with Israel and tried to dispel any impression of a major crisis between the two countries, saying the move would have no impact on the first Arab-Israeli peace deal, signed by Egypt in 1979.

"As a general principle, and at this sensitive time, we believe that dialogue is important and we encourage Egypt and Israel to maintain the closest possible contacts," State Department spokeswoman Susan Pittman said.

Moustafa el-Feki, chair of the parliamentary foreign relations committee, told Reuters the Egyptian move was significant and timely.

"It is what we need at this stage. It is an expression of anger, a message to the Israelis that we respect our commitments and keep the diplomatic relations, but we are so angry with what is going on," he said.

"You can show your anger while keeping the channels (open)," Feki said, adding that Egypt had to tread cautiously and could aggravate the situation if it cut diplomatic ties.

Analysts said Egypt wanted to maintain a certain level of dialogue with Israel so it could try to exert influence on decision-makers and put pressure on them to withdraw from Palestinian areas and resume moribund peace talks.

Egypt and Jordan are the only two Arab states to have signed peace treaties with Israel and both have maintained diplomatic ties with the Jewish state. Jordan has said it was considering expelling the Israeli ambassador.

Egypt's relations with Israel, often chilly, have come under greater strain since the Palestinian uprising began. In recent days there have been angry protests in Egypt calling for expulsion of the Israeli ambassador and severing of ties.

Reuters

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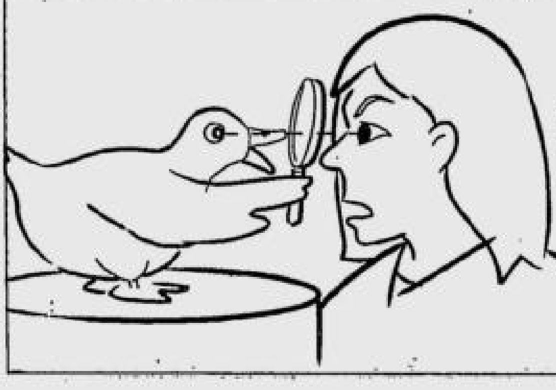

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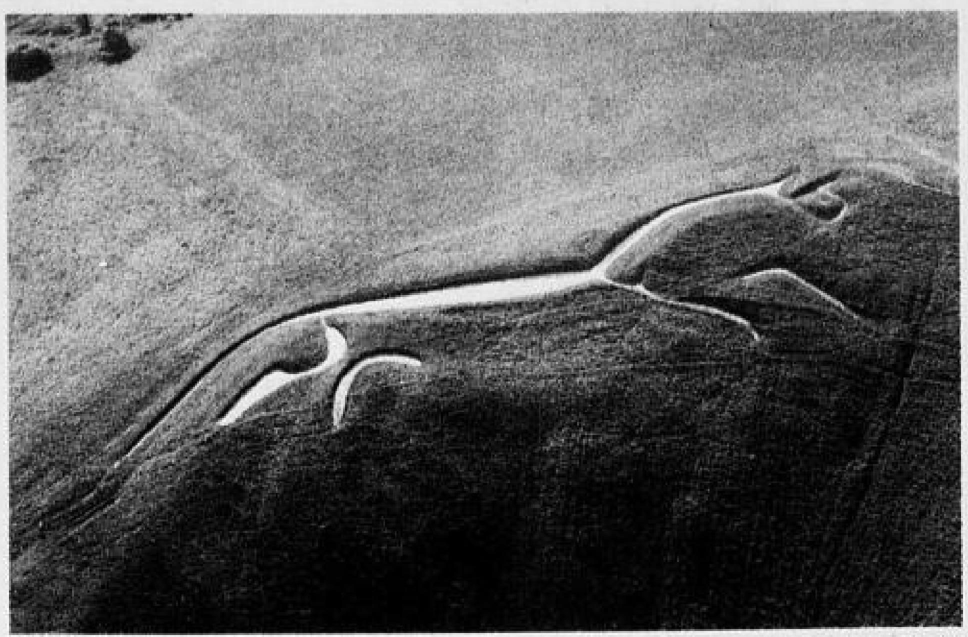

WHITE HORSE AP

The full shape of the White Horse, which is partially visible for kilometers around, is seen from the air in Uffington, Oxordshire, England, Oct. 10, 2001. The horse, sculpted by the glaciers of the last Ice Age, stands guard over the verdant farmland in the valley below.

Israel says it is giving food to besieged Arafat

JERUSALEM—Six days after trapping Yasser Arafat in his West Bank office, the Israeli military says it's looking after the Palestinian leader's health by providing food and medicine, but it's no gourmet diet.

But Arafat's private doctor, Ashraf al-Kurdi, said Wednesday that Arafat must be lacking his regular medication because of the Israeli Army blockade of his office.

"He called me the day before yesterday (Monday) and sounded in good shape and high morale. He repeated to me that he believed in destiny and that times of crisis raise his fighting spirit," Kurdi said.

"I asked him: do you have the medication that you need? He replied: With the help of God I will have all that I need," said the prominent Jordanian neurologist.

Arafat underwent brain surgery in June 1992 in Amman. The doctors removed a blood clot that had formed after the Palestinian leader survived a plane crash in Libya.

Kurdi annnounced in June 1999 that Arafat was not suffering from Parkinson's disease but from "trembling," caused by "nervous tension."

But that's not Arafat's only problem. Because of Israel's policy of "isolating" Arafat since Friday, beginning its military offensive in the West Bank, Arafat's only connection with the world is a weak cellular phone, one of his aides said, and he has to risk Israeli bullets by edging up to a window to use it.

The aide, Nabil Abu Rdeneh, denied the Israeli military claim that it supplied Arafat and his entourage with delicacies like halvah, a sweet, calorie-rich bar made of ground sesame seeds and nuts, a favorite in the Israeli military, and canned meat, the bane of every Israeli soldier's existence.

Arafat remained imprisoned Thursday in his windowless ground floor of his office building by Israeli troops, part of the operation that followed a string of suicide bombings that killed dozens of Israelis. Israeli forces have overrun several Palestinian towns and refugee camps, arresting suspected militants and confiscating weapons. ***AP, AFP***

Milosevic allies to defy UN tribunal

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia—Defying the Serbian leadership and its attempts to avoid US sanctions, former top associates of Slobodan Milosevic vowed Wednesday to resist arrest and extradition to the UN war crimes tribunal.

The most direct challenge was issued by retired Gen. Dragoljub Ojdanic, who commanded the Army under the former Yugoslav president during 1999 Nato air strikes launched to end Milosevic's military crackdown on Kosovo.

He said in a statement relayed to The Associated Press by his family that he is "not afraid of an arrest" but that he would resist any detention attempt.

"I will surrender only if a law on cooperation with The Hague tribunal is passed in the Yugoslav parliament," Ojdanic said.

Such a law does not exist, giving opponents of extradition—most notably Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica—a platform to oppose delivering citizens to a court he considers anti-Serb.

But with the government of Yugoslavia—made up of Serbia and Montenegro—joining in support of Serbian government plans to extradite suspects earlier this week, Kostunica is increasingly isolated in his opposition.

Ojdanic is one of four top suspects listed by the Serbian authorities to be extradited to the UN tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Under indirect threats that US aid will be withheld to the economically struggling country, Serbia has said it will arrest and extradite Ojdanic; Milan Milutinovic, the current Serbian president; Nikola Sainovic, Milosevic's top security adviser and former deputy prime minister, and Vlajko Stojiljkovic, a former Serbian interior minister.

The US Congress gave Yugoslav authorities until March 31 to cooperate with the tribunal by handing over the suspects, or else lose $120 million in financial assistance. Because the deadline has expired, no US assistance checks can be written for Yugoslavia until US Secretary of State Colin Powell certifies the country has complied with the request. ***AP***

Cursed diamond to sit on Queen Mother's coffin

LONDON—A diamond with a bloody history is to sit atop the British Queen Mother's coffin at Friday's ceremonial procession to her lying-in-state.

Coveted by Mogul Emperors, hidden in a sultan's turban, once claimed by the Taliban for Afghanistan—the Koh-i-Noor ranks as one of the world's most notorious gemstones.

The jewel in the Queen Mother's crown—also claimed by India, Iran and Pakistan—has forever been cursed.

A Hindu proverb once warned: "He who owns this diamond will own the world but will also know its misfortunes. Only God or a woman can wear it with impunity."

And so it proved with the Queen Mother. The jewel was set in the crown she wore for the coronation of her husband, King George VI, in 1937. He died at the age of 56.

Since the 14th century, murder and treachery have dogged the diamond named by Persia's Nadir Shah.

The 18th century king was tipped off by a courtesan that a captured rival had an egg-sized diamond hidden in his turban.

He tricked his enemy into swapping turbans and, when the diamond fell to the floor from the unraveled turban, he exclaimed "Koh-i-Noor"—"Mountain of Light" in Persian.

Eight years later, Nadir Shah was assassinated. One of his generals took the stone to Kabul for the Afghan monarchy.

But its colorful history was far from over.

The Koh-i-Noor ended up in the Punjab where Sikh ruler Ranjit Singh loved the diamond so much he set it in his horse's bridle so he could admire it when out riding.

When Britain annexed the Punjab, the diamond had passed into the hands of nine-year-old Prince Duleep Singh. ***Reuters***

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US denies any intent to torture Abu Zubaydah

WASHINGTON—The FBI said on Wednesday the capture of senior al-Qaida leader Abu Zubaydah was a blow against future attacks on America and the Pentagon angrily denied that the wounded prisoner might be tortured.

"The arrest assists in helping to prevent another attack," Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Robert Mueller told reporters at a briefing, without giving further details.

RUMSFELD

"Zubaydah was a principal al-Qaida leader. The Pakistani authorities are to be congratulated on their detention of him," Mueller said of Zubaydah's capture last week.

Zubaydah has been turned over to US custody and is being treated for three bullet wounds at an undisclosed location.

The prisoner, believed to be chief of operations of Saudi-born extremist Bin Laden's al-Qaida network, is the highest-ranking al-Qaida member known to be in US custody in a war on terrorism triggered by Sept. 11 attacks on the United States that killed about 3,000 people.

At the Pentagon on Wednesday, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld pounded the podium at a separate briefing and denied broadcast reports suggesting the US military might pressure Zubaydah with threats of turning him over to another country to be tortured.

"That is what I saw on television. And that is wrong and irresponsible. I saw a report that referred to a word (torture) I don't even want to use," Rumsfeld told reporters.

"Believe me, reports to that effect are wrong, inaccurate, not happening and will not happen," he said when asked by reporters about the "T word."

"We are responsible for him. He is receiving medical care. And we intend to get every single thing out of him to try to prevent terrorist acts in the future," Rumsfeld added. "He will be properly interrogated by proper people who know how to do those things . . . we will be responsible for that interrogation.

Not we the Department of Defense, we the United States of America."

Zubaydah, who is said to be Bin Laden's right-hand man, was captured last week during targeted raids in the towns of Faisalabad, Multan and Lahore in which more than 50 people—half of them foreigners—were arrested. ***Reuters***

N. Korea may have kidnapped 40 Japanese

TOKYO—In a move certain to infuriate North Korea, Japan could add nearly 30 people to a list of 11 Japanese nationals Tokyo believes were abducted and taken to the reclusive communist state, a Japanese intelligence source said.

A dispute over alleged abductions of Japanese citizens—the most sensitive issue between the two Asian neighbors—has hampered efforts to normalize diplomatic ties.

"We believe slightly fewer than 30 additional Japanese nationals were abducted to North Korea," a high-ranking Japanese intelligence source said, adding that the new numbers came after lengthy study of missing people.

Tokyo has said that at least 11 Japanese were allegedly abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s, apparently to provide language teaching to spies.

North Korea has repeatedly denied the kidnapping charges.

"It is highly possible that they will be added to the list of 11 Japanese whom we feel certain were abducted by North Korea," the intelligence source said on condition of anonymity.

The revelation that North Korea's suspected murky abduction scheme might be much bigger than at first believed comes as North Korea, which US President George W. Bush branded an "axis of evil" state, has shown signs of preparing to resume long-stalled talks with Washington and key US allies South Korea and Japan.

"The more people we add to the list of abductees, the higher the hurdle will be for the two countries to clear before normalizing diplomatic relations," the source said.

The source said North Korea had "unofficially" hinted recently that one of the 11 on the abduction list was alive in the communist country but two unidentified men were dead.

The source said the person Pyongyang suggested was alive could be Keiko Arimoto who Tokyo believes was kidnapped by North Koreans in 1983 when she was a 23-year-old student in Britain.

Suspicions that Arimoto had been abducted to North Korea were backed up by testimony last month by the ex-wife of a member of the Japanese Red Army leftist group that hijacked a plane to North Korea in 1970.

The source said those who could be added to the list include two men in their 40s who Tokyo suspects were abducted to Pyongyang in June 1980 after disappearing in Spain.

Most of the other kidnappings took place in Japan, the source said. Most of the missing people disappeared from remote coastal areas on the Sea of Japan, which separates the two countries. ***Reuters***

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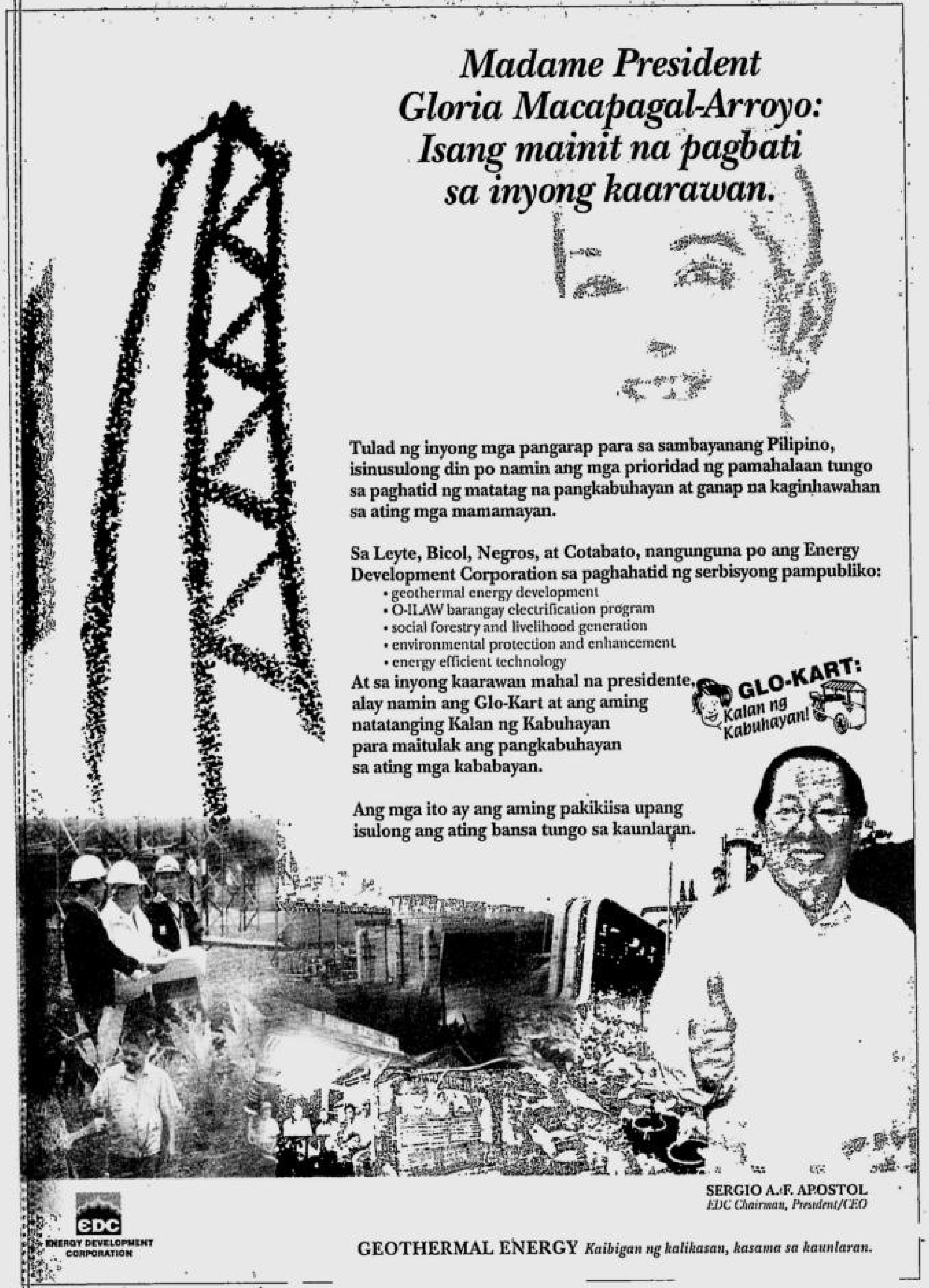

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High crude prices seen threatening US recovery

WASHINGTON—High oil prices threaten to sap the energy from an economic recovery in the United States, the world's biggest oil guzzler, experts said Wednesday.

The US economy—accounting for more than one quarter of global oil demand—is emerging from recession at a faster clip than analysts had expected, noted Standard and Poor's chief economist David Wyss.

"There remains, however, a significant risk that the economy will dip back into recession," Wyss said in a report.

"The most likely cause would be an external shock, whether in the form of another terrorist attack or an expanding conflict in the Middle East, which could send oil prices higher."

In New York, light sweet crude for May delivery fell 15 cents to close at $27.56 a barrel after reaching a six-month high the previous day due to the Middle East crisis.

Prices remained too high, however, said George Gaspar, managing director of petroleum research at Robert W. Baird and Co., a Milwaukee-based investment bank.

"I think oil prices at this point are a good four dollars above where they ought to be," he said, blaming the Middle East and a widely discounted Iraq-Iran threat to halt oil exports to the United States.

High prices coincided with early signs of rekindled oil demand, Gaspar said, forecasting a net increase in global demand of 500,000 barrels per day—just 0.7 percent up from 2001.

"The US economy is really starting to bubble," he said.

The US economy expanded 1.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2001, and economists are tipping an expansion of four to five percent in the January-March period this year.

"I am very concerned, though, that the tremendous surge in oil prices is going to short circuit not just the US economy but could short circuit the world economy from recovering to the extent that is envisioned at the present time," Gaspar said.

In the early stages of a US economic recovery, West Texas oil prices above $22.50-$23.00 a barrel represented a threat, Gaspar said. As the economy gathered strength over the next six months to a year, it could probably take a price of around $25 a barrel.

But anything above 28 dollars a barrel for West Texas Intermediate oil was a longer-term menace to the economy.

"The price like it is now—the WTI above 27—that is way ahead of schedule. There is not any question that that is the kind of thing that can work against the economic recovery," Gaspar said. ***AFP***

Pakistan sets referendum to extend Musharraf's rule

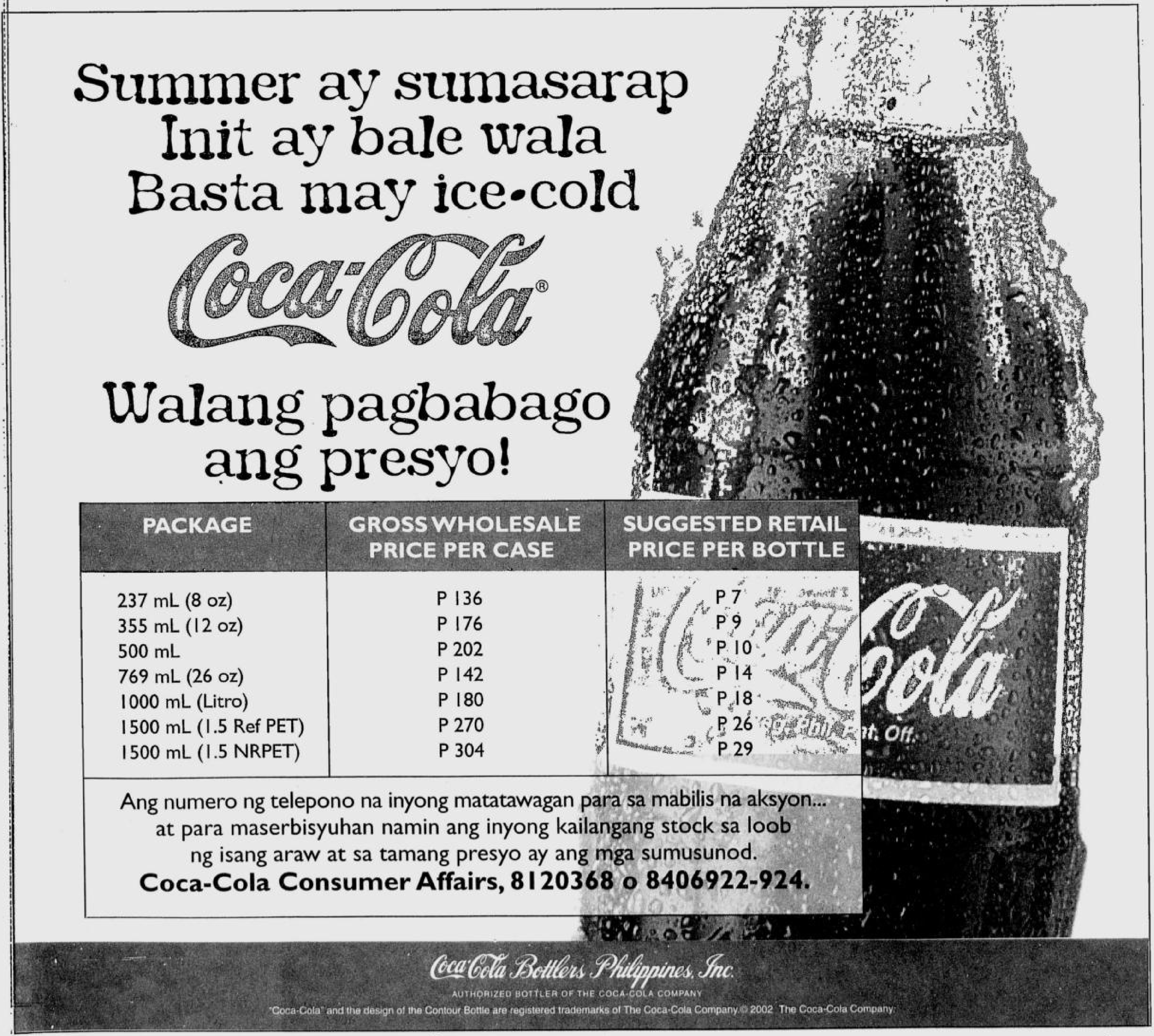
ISLAMABAD—The government decided Wednesday to hold a referendum to extend President Pervez Musharraf's rule without requiring him to stand for election. Political rivals denounced the plan, and commentators warned it could backfire by uniting religious parties and the factious opposition.

Although Musharraf is expected to win, the plan has already sparked a bitter national debate that will determine whether America's key ally in the war against terrorism will be able to steer his country away from Islamic extremism that has been growing here for nearly two decades.

The two major political parties—the Pakistan Peoples' Party and the Pakistan Muslim League—have already rejected the referendum as unconstitutional. The largest Islamic religious party, Jamaat-e-Islami, asked the Supreme Court on Wednesday to nullify the balloting.

Nevertheless, the military-led government announced that the National Security Council and the federal Cabinet jointly approved a referendum "on important national issues." Musharraf will spell out the details in an address to the nation Friday.

During the referendum, expected in early May, Pakistani voters will likely be asked whether they want Musharraf to continue the war against terrorism and domestic reforms. If so, then Musharraf would remain in office for five years. ***AP***



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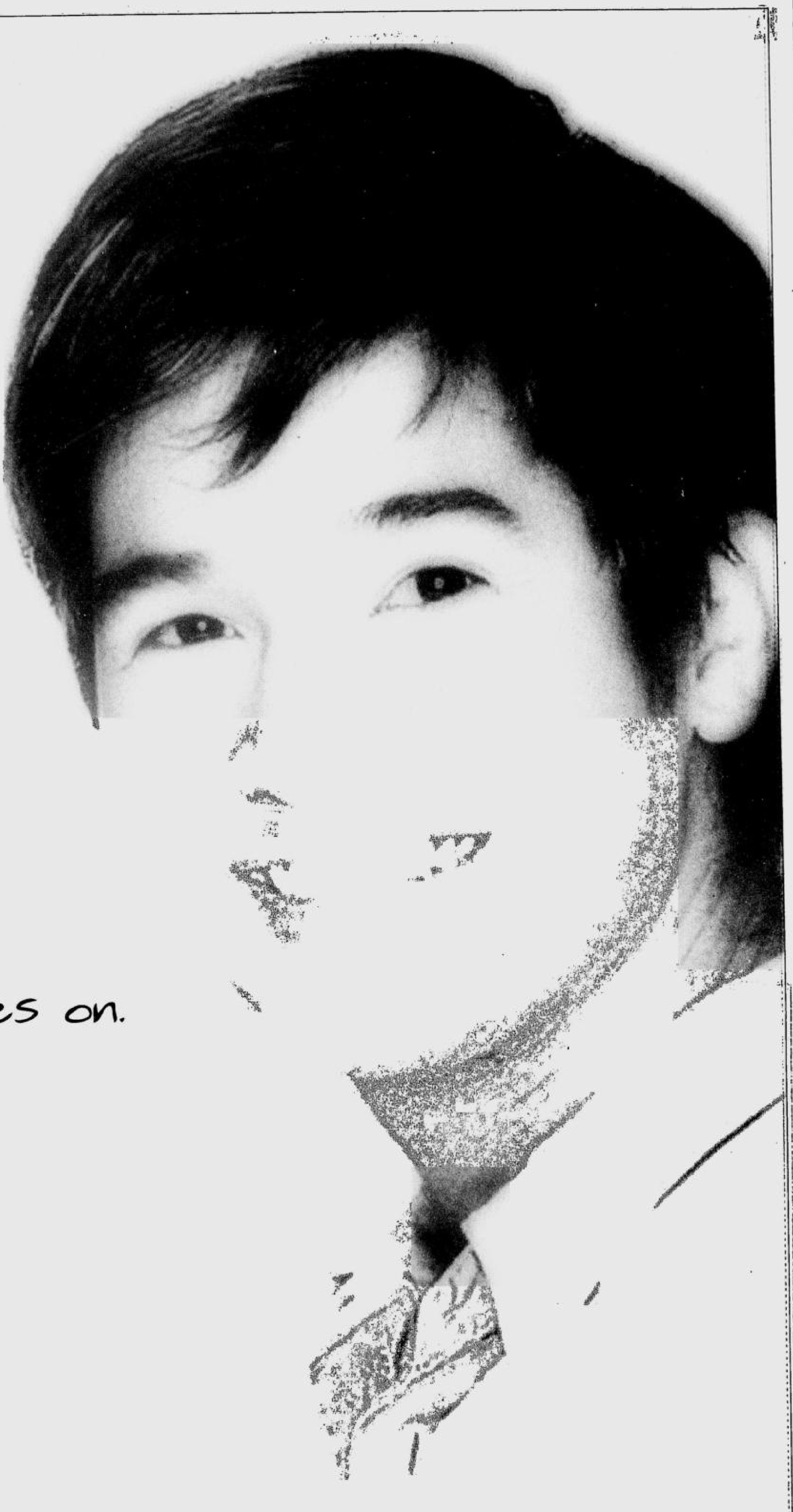

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SC junks Diwalwal suit vs Cerilles

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Asserting the state's inherent control over all natural resources, the Supreme Court on Wednesday junked a suit filed by a mining firm against former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles and a mining cooperative.

The suit was prompted by losses that the firm, Southeast Mindanao Gold Mining Corp. (SEM), incurred in 1997 during the gold rush in Mt. Diwalwal in Southern Mindanao.

The court's first division, chaired by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., addressed a petition filed by SEM, which sought to revoke one of Cerilles' policies that would have settled the contentious legal battles in the Diwalwal area.

The Supreme Court justices are holding their summer sessions here.

The case involved a rich tract of mineral land situated in the Agusan-Davao-Surigao forest reserve known as the "Diwalwal gold rush area."

Located at Mt. Diwata in the towns of Monkayo and Cateel in Davao del Norte, the land has been embroiled in controversy since the mid-1980s due to a scramble over gold deposits found in the area.

The court's ruling, penned by Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, stressed the state's all-encompassing authority to intervene and take over any Filipino mine, "in accordance with the demands of the general welfare."

The gold rush had set small-scale mining claims, and those of indigenous Filipino communities there, against the original stakeholder, Marcopper Mining Corp., which acquired Exploration Permit No. 133 over sections of Diwata.

Marcopper later assigned EP No. 133, covering 4,491 hectares of Diwalwal land, to SEM.

SEM sued Cerilles on July 16, 1997. The firm asserted that Cerilles and the provincial mining regulatory board of Davao illegally issued ore transport permits (OTPs) that allowed the small-scale mining group, Balite Portal Mining Cooperative (BCMC), to "illegally" extract and haul P60,000 worth of gold ore per truckload from SEM's mining claim.

The firm claimed that the OTPs were manifestations of Memorandum Order No. 97-03, issued on June 24, 1997 by Cerilles, to settle the Diwalwal disputes under a policy of "direct state utilization."

SEM argued that Cerilles' "direct state utilization policy"—a reference to government's likely brokering of profit-sharing or management sharing agreements on behalf of all contending parties in Diwalwal—"would effectively impair its vested rights under EP No. 133."

But the Court of Appeals ruled on March 19, 1998 that the memorandum merely directed the study of options like "direct state utilization," and had not encroached upon its mining privileges. The CA, however, did not rule on the validity of the OTPs.

In its decision, the Supreme Court noted that SEM's vested rights in EP No. 133 "is still being disputed" in a consolidated set of cases still pending before several arbitration courts.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience clear to partly cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo 22°
Baguio	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 22°
Laoag	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cebu	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/05/02

GMA, Estrada ally exchange compliments in Cagayan de Oro

By Grace Cantal-Albasin and Butch D. Enerio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Was the cat finally out of the bag?

President Macapagal-Arroyo has not confirmed speculations that she was determined to run in the 2004 elections, but on Wednesday, she might have unwittingly made it known.

During Ms Macapagal's arrival here to grace the 4th Mindanao Food Congress as guest speaker, a streamer stood out from among the many others hanging in conspicuous places.

"Her Excellency: *Ako'y Iyong Iyo Na* (I'm completely yours), Mayor Vicente Emano," read the streamer displayed in front of the Grand Caprice at the Lim Ket Kai Mall where the President's party passed by on its way to the congress venue.

At the congress, the President opened her speech with: "*Salamat at ika'y aking-akin na, meyor* (Thank you and you're completely with me, mayor)."

Ms Macapagal went on, saying she and Emano, a political stalwart in Misamis Oriental, were partners in development although the mayor supported Joseph Estrada in the 2000 presidential elections.

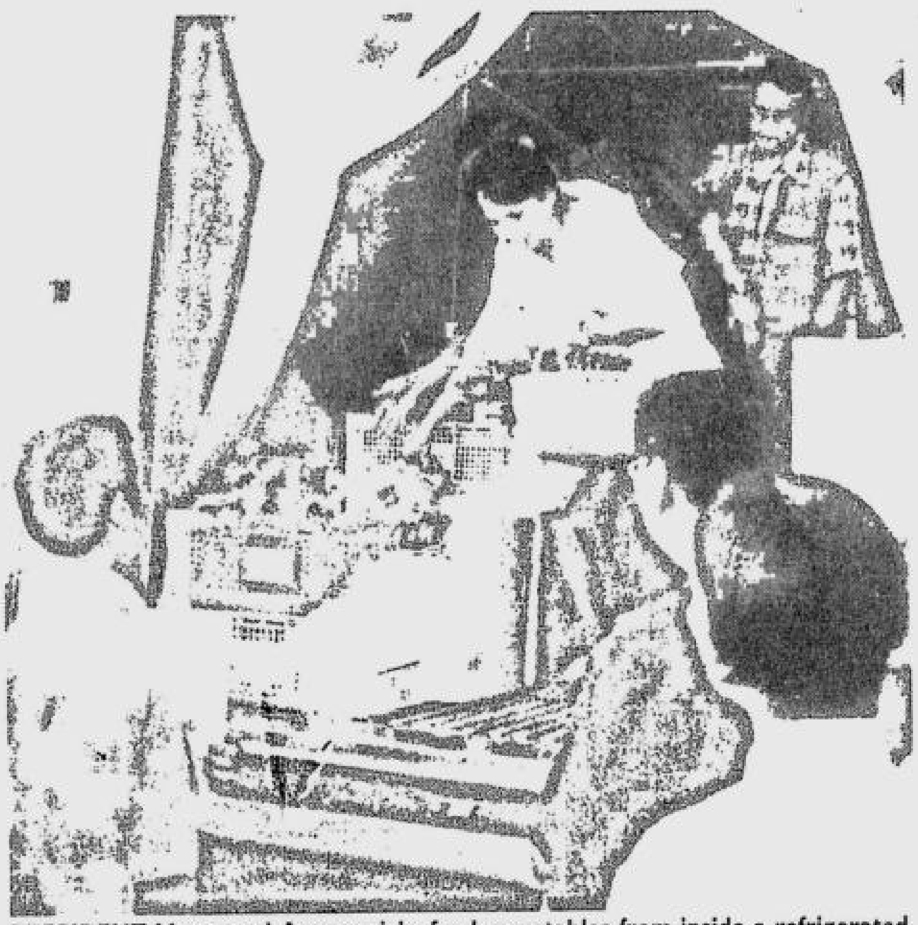
"Today, I am sure (Mayor Emano) won't forget his promise," she said, without elaborating.

Emano later told the INQUIRER that he would only support a presidential candidate who is committed to developing Mindanao.

"I am just returning a favor to the President for all the infrastructure projects that she has been pouring in to our city. (As to) . . . the other members of the party, they can have their own opinions and positions, but if they would like to join me, I'd like to thank them for that," he said.

Still in high spirits, Ms Macapagal said her commitment to the development of Mindanao could be seen in her administration's support to the agriculture industry.

Mindanao is considered the country's food basket, supplying about 60 percent of the national food requirement.



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo picks fresh vegetables from inside a refrigerated van that the government donated to the Chamber of Agriculture, Fishery and Food Industries in Northern Mindanao.

BUTCH ENERIO/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

As part of her efforts to stabilize the country's food supply, the President said her administration set aside P26 billion last year under the Agriculture and Fishery Modernization Act of 1997.

"I have put emphasis on the stabilization of the food supply in my administration because agriculture is a social, rather than an economic, policy," Ms Macapagal said.

She also said that adopting technological advances would boost the island's productivity.

"To develop Mindanao, what is important is not politics but to modernize our agriculture based on social equity," she said.

Congress participants presented to the President at least seven major resolutions that would, in effect, ensure food productivity and realize Mindanao's potential as the food basket of the country.

Some of the documents dwelled on reforms in the sea transport industry, enhancement of credit accessibility of farmers and fisherfolk, and the need to accelerate infrastructure development.

Others called on the government to enhance the competitiveness of the country's canned tuna exports in the European Union through the removal of "discriminatory" tariff barriers.

Congress organizers said the resolutions were products of previous summits.

"This time we will no longer formulate resolutions, but rather want the government to act on the issues we have raised," said Iso Motalvan of the Federation of Cattle Raisers Association of the Philippines.

"The 4th Food Congress would instead embark on how best we can collect those promised by the government, past and present, regarding the development for Mindanao."

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, who accompanied the President, said the government has already approved in principle that Mindanao will get 27 percent of next year's budget for the implementation of the Afma.

"We see it necessary that Mindanao get the bigger share of the budget, considering that it is the food basket of the country," he said.

Stakeholders had earlier asked that at least 31 percent of the country's budget be allocated to Mindanao.

"At least the 27 percent is nearer to what Mindanao is asking for, and (be) rest assured that the administration would find ways to achieve that," Montemayor said.

NPA leader justifies use of landmines vs military

CATEEL, Davao Oriental—The New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), has justified its use of landmines in its war against the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Through its Willie Zapanta Command based in the province, the NPA said in a statement that the landmines it uses are of the "command-detonated" type. It did not give further details.

The rebel group was reacting to military accusations that the NPA violated an agreement with the Philippine government in 1998 that prohibits the use of landmines which are considered weapons "contrary to humanitarian conduct of war."

According to the NPA, the landmine that it uses is also not covered by the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpile, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, also known as the Mine Ban Treaty.

The NPA, however, stressed that the Mine Ban Treaty, signed in Ottawa, Canada, "only covers states and not the non-state actors, the armed opposition groups challenging existing states" like the NPA and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao.

The government and the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) earlier forged the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law or CARHRIHL prohibiting the use of landmines by both parties.

"The NPA is a poor man's army. We have no artillery except for a few mortars captured from . . . (government) troops. We have no anti-tank and anti-armor weapons besides our improvised landmines designed for use against tanks, armored cars and other military vehicles," the NPA statement said.

"Depriving us of the use of these command-detonated mines will further favor the . . . Armed Forces of the Philippines which already enjoys overwhelming advantage over the NPA in terms of number, arms and logistics," the statement added.

At least 18 government soldiers were killed and 12 others were seriously wounded in an NPA ambush in a remote village here in December last year. The rebels had used improvised landmines.

Maj. Alexis Gopico, chief of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, said the NPA's use of landmines was a violation to the 1998 agreement.

Gopico said the AFP has religiously respected the agreement as he claimed that it had destroyed its entire stockpile of Claymore landmines. ***Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Solcom head tells Ka Roger: Real issue is mass purging

LUCENA CITY—The head of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here chided the Communist Party of the Philippines for diverting the real issue behind the discovery of at least five human skeletons buried in a common grave in a remote area in Quezon.

"The real issue is that mass purging called Operation Missing Link really happened. There is nothing fantastic and incredulous here," Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Solcom chief, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"And based on the recent discovery of several mass graves, it only shows that it is happening again."

Carolina added that CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal knew that forensic examination would only estimate the approximate time of the killing.

"But he cannot deny that there is mass purging going on. We have many witnesses to attest to the fact that the OPML has now a sequel. And this will continue for as long as we have a paranoid organization like the CPP-NPA-NDF," he said.

Rosal has described as "fantastic and incredible" the circumstances surrounding the discovery on Monday of the mass grave in Mauban, Quezon.

He called for an "independent forensic experts" investigation of the skeletal remains for a more scientific and truthful analysis of the matter.

Carolina pointed out, however, that what Rosal has been pushing "is now being undertaken by the government." ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Butuan historians drag Gloria into First Mass controversy

By Ma. Kristina E. Cassion
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BUTUAN CITY—Local historians criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo for visiting Limasawa Island in Southern Leyte on Sunday, saying it indicated government intervention in a dispute over where the First Christian Mass was held.

Fr. Joselo Amalla, a local historian, said the President "was really supporting Limasawa without listening honestly to Butuan's claim."

"Her act was contentious and not peace-building," Amalla added.

He said the President should be neutral because the claim of the island in question is disputable.

"Even though Limasawa could not present evidences, it keeps on inviting VIPs (Very Important Persons) like the President to visit the island and this is a desperate attempt to use politics to diffuse the historical defeat of Limasawa," Amalla said.

Greg Hontiveros, another historian, said controversies such as this can only be given enlightenment by historians and that government should not intervene.

While Limasawa celebrated its Sinugdan Festival to commemorate its First Mass claim, this city also marked Easter Sunday by celebrating the 481st Christian Mass, calling it "Discovery Day," in Masao.

Amalla and Hontiveros claimed that Masao was the real "Mazaua" in Pigafetta and Ginez de Mafra's accounts.

The President made a stopover in Surigao City on Sunday and boarded the presidential helicopter to Limasawa. She was met by Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers, Mayor Alfonso Casurra and other government officials.

Critics perceived the President's act as an insult to the sensibilities of Butuanons, saying that if she could not make it to their celebration, she should at least have the *delicadeza* not to make the stopover in Surigao City, which is only three hours by car to Butuan.

SC RULING

'Kissing' judge cleared of harassment raps

BAGUIO CITY—A "kissing" judge has been cleared of sexual harassment charges filed by a woman court officer but has been admonished by the Supreme Court not to commit similar acts, otherwise his conduct may be construed as lustful advances.

Ernesto Acosta, presiding judge of the Court of Tax Appeals, got away with a warning only after the tribunal upheld an earlier finding exonerating him from the charges filed by the head of the legal and technical staff of the same court.

The court officer complained that on six occasions from November 2000 to February 2001, Acosta sexually harassed her.

She claimed the judge kissed her on the cheek when she handed him a gift, when he greeted her on Christmas and New Year in December 2000, and when they discussed official business with her.

The last incident, according to her, was when she was called to the judge's office on Feb. 14, 2001. She said Acosta tried to grab and kiss her. She said she pushed him away and then slumped on a chair trembling.

"Respondent (judge) sat on his chair and covered his face with his hands. Thereafter, complainant left crying and locked herself inside a comfort room. After that incident, respondent went to her office and tossed a note stating "sorry, it won't happen," court records showed.

Acosta denied the court officer's allegations and claimed he had "always treated her with respect."

Justice Josefina Salonga of the Court of Appeals, which investigated the complaints, dismissed the allegations against Acosta as "innocent acts of '*beso-beso*" that were "given malicious connotations by the complainant."

The Supreme Court, in an *en banc* decision issued last April 2 and signed by Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez, upheld Salonga's finding.

"What we perceive to have been committed by respondent judge are casual gestures of friendship and camaraderie, nothing more, nothing less," the court said.

"In kissing complainant, we find no indication that respondent was motivated by malice or lewd design. Evidently, she misunderstood his actuations and construed them as work-related sexual harassment."

But the court admonished Acosta not to commit similar acts otherwise, it said, his conduct might "be construed as tainted with impropriety."

The court also lauded the complainant for "coming out in the open and accusing her superior of sexual harassment." ***Rolando Fernandez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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FIRST DIVISION

[G.R.No. 135789, promulgated January 31,2002]

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, represented by the PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT, petitioner, vs. SANDIGANBAYAN (Fourth Division), ESTATE OF HANS M. MENZI (through its Executor, MANUEL G. MONTECILLO), and HANS MENZI HOLDINGS AND MANAGEMENT, INC. (HMHMI) respondents.

DECISION

PARDO, J.:

The Case

The case is a petition for certiorari to nullify two (2) resolutions of the Sandiganbayan, namely:

(1) Resolution dated April 13, 1998 ordering the lifting of the writ of sequestration over the assets, shares of stocks, property, records and bank deposit of Hans M. Menzi Holdings and Management, Inc. (HMHMI); and

(2) Resolution dated August 21, 1998 denying petitioner's Motion for Reconsideration.

The Facts

The facts, as alleged in the petition, are as follows:

On May 5, 1982, Manuel G. Montecillo, Eduardo M. Cojuangco, Jr., Cesar C. Zalamea and Jose Y. Campos organized HMHMI to serve as a holding company for the shares of stocks of Hans M. Menzi, Jose Y. Campos, Cesar C. Zalamea and Eduardo M. Cojuangco, Jr. in Bulletin Publishing Corporation and the shares of stocks of Hans M. Menzi in other companies , namely, Liwayway Publishing, Inc.,Menzi and Company, Inc., Menzi Agricultural, Inc., Menzi Development Corporation and M and M Consolidated, Inc.

On June 27, 1984, Hans M. Menzi died. On July 6 1984, the court appointed Manuel G, Montecillo executor of the Estate of Hans M. Menzi and later the president of HMHMI. With the lone exception of Montecillo, Eduardo M. Cojuangco, Jr., Cesar C. Zalamea and Jose Y. Campos, constitute the principal stockholders and incorporators of HMHMI.

On February 12, 1987, the PCGG issued Sequestration Writ No. 87-0206 against all shares of stocks, assets, properties, records and documents of HMHMI.

On the same day, the PCGG requested the Governor, Central Bank of the Philippines to instruct commercial banks and non-bank financial institution to disallow the withdrawal of funds and assets by Liwayway Publishing Incorporated and HMHMI.

Forthwith, on February 13, 1987, Central Bank Governor Fernandez instructed commercial banks and non-bank financial institutions to withhold the withdrawal of funds and assets by Liwayway Publishing Corporation and HMHMI.

On July 29, 1987, petitioner filled with the Sandiganbayan a complaint for reconveyance, reversion, accounting, restitution and damages against the following defendants Manuel G. Montecillo, Eduardo M. Cojuangco, Jr., Cesar C. Zalamea, Ferdinand E. Marcos and Imelda R. Marcos.

On October 17, 1990, the PCGG filed a Second Amended Complaint naming specifically the estate of Hans M. Menzi as one of the defendants.

On November 27, 1992, the estate of Hans M. Menzi, in behalf of HMHMI, filed with the Sandiganbayan a "Motion to Lift Freeze Order" dated February 12, 1987, alleging that:

(1) The stocks, assets, properties, records and documents of HMHMI were sequestered without any judicial action having been filed against it, or without impleading it as a defendant in Civil Case No. 0022; and

(2) Such issuance of a writ of sequestration without filing a corresponding judicial action against HMHMI within the reglementary period established by Section 26, Article XVIII of the 1987 Constitution resulted in the automatic lifting of the sequestration order on August 12, 1987.

On April 2, 1992, the Sandiganbayan granted the motion. On October 2, 1992, the Sandiganbayan denied petition's motion for reconsideration.

On January 15, 1993, the Republic of the Philippines filed with the Supreme Court a petition for review assailing the resolution of the Sandiganbayan lifting the freeze order.

On July 16, 1996, the Court set aside the Sandiganbayan's resolution lifting the freeze order and remanded the case back to the Sandiganbayan for resolution of the preliminary question of whether or not there was a *prima facie* factual basis for the PCGG's Writ of sequestration dated February 12, 1987.

On April 13, 1998, the Sandiganbayan lifted the writ of sequestration dated February 12, 1987,reasoning that there was no *prima facie* factual basis for its issuance. The dispositive portion of the resolution reads:

> "WHEREFORE, considering the evidence adduced on the subject preliminary question, this court hereby declares that there was no prima facie factual basis for the issuance by the PCGG of the Writ of Sequestration dated February 12, 1987.
>
> "Accordingly, this Court hereby sets aside and lifts the said Writ of Sequestration over the assets, shares of stocks, property, records and bank deposits of the HM Holdings & Management, Inc. (HMHMI)
>
> "SO ORDERED."

On May 6, 1998, petitioner filed a motion for reconsideration. On August 21, 1998, the Sandiganbayan denied the motion.

Hence, this petition.

The Issue

The basic issue raised is whether there was *prima facie* factual basis for the issuance of a writ of sequestration over the assets, shares of stock, property records and bank deposits of HMHMI.

The Court's Ruling

We deny the petition. The issue is factual.

It is well settled that the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court over decisions or final orders of the Sandiganbayan is limited to questions of law. A question of law exists when the doubt or controversy concerns the correct application of law or jurisprudence to a certain set of facts; or when the issue does not call for an examination of the probative value of the evidence presented, the truth or falsehood of facts being admitted. A question of fact exists when the doubt or difference arises as to the truth or falsehood of facts or when the query invites calibration of the whole evidence considering mainly the credibility of the witnesses, the existence and relevancy of specific surrounding circumstances as well as their relation to each other and to the whole and the probability of the situation.

The Supreme Court is not a trier of facts. It is not the Court's function to examine and weigh all over again the evidence presented in the proceedings below.

At any rate, we agree with respondents that the Sandiganbayan has full authority to decide on all incidents in the ill-gotten case including the propriety of the writs of sequestration that the PCGG initially issued. Based on the evidence the PCGG submitted so far to the Sandiganbayan, the late Hans M. Menzi, owned the Bulletin Publishing Corporation almost one hundred (100%) per cent since 1957, except those Bulletin shares sold to U.S. Automotive Corporation in 1985, those converted to treasury shares in 1986, and those sold to the general public at public offerings. In the absence of competent evidence showing thus far that President Ferdinand E. Marcos or his cronies ever acquired Bulletin shares of the late Hans M. Menzi or HMHMI that might be subject to sequestration, we may not void the resolutions of the Sandiganbayan in question.

The Fallo

WHEREFORE, the court **DENIES** the petition for failure to show that the Sandiganbayan gravely abused its discretion in adopting its resolution lifting the writs of sequestration on the shares of stock, assets, property, records and documents of HMHMI. The Court directs the Sandiganbayan to proceed with the final disposition of Civil Case No. 0022 in accordance with the mandates of Republic Act No. 8493, within the period prescribed therein.

The Sandiganbayan must complete the trial stage in six (6) months from notice of this decision and decide the case within three (3) months from submission. It shall inform the Court of the decision within ten (10) days from promulgation thereof.

No costs.

SO ORDERED.

Bernardo P. Pardo (Associate Justice), Davide, Puno, Kapunan, Ynares-Santiago., concur.

Bush remark signals shift in US Middle East policy

WASHINGTON—In a policy shift apparently designed to mollify Palestinians, the White House suggested on Wednesday that US President George W. Bush was open to discussing the political aspects of a Middle East peace deal before there is a ceasefire on the ground.

The new emphasis followed Bush's statement on Tuesday that he hoped the Palestinians could have "their own peaceful state" and appeared aimed at those who would like broader peace talks and have been infuriated by Bush's failure to demand that Israel stop its incursion into Palestinian areas.

Bush has been under pressure from Europe to exert US influence on Israel to rein in its siege of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Ramallah headquarters.

In Luxembourg, the European Union agreed to send an urgent diplomatic mission to Israel and the Palestinian territories on Thursday. But it was unclear if they would be allowed to see Arafat.

Emerging from emergency talks with other foreign ministers, Josep Pique of Spain told reporters that the EU would press for an immediate ceasefire, an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian cities and a return to peace negotiations.

But he conceded: "We don't know at what level and who we will meet. We have asked to meet everyone at the top level."

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, will lead the EU delegates only if Israel allows them to meet Arafat.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was discussing with his security Cabinet late into the night whether to bow to the EU request, diplomats said.

In the absence of an Israeli commitment, officials said Pique and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana would fly to Tel Aviv on Thursday to press all sides for an end to the worsening spiral of violence.

AN Israeli soldier takes cover some 300 meters from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem where some 200 Palestinians are holed up. REUTERS

"This is now the most dangerous conflict in the world and it could engulf the region and therefore draw us all in with really serious consequences for the entire international community," British Minister for Europe Peter Hain told reporters.

Pique voiced EU concern about Sharon's ultimate objectives in attacking Palestinian Authority targets and isolating Arafat.

"The legitimate fight against terrorism . . . cannot be confused with the destruction of the Palestinian Authority. We will also express our greatest concern about the humanitarian situation," the Spanish minister said. ***Reuters***

Oh, little town of Bethlehem

From page A1

being massacred at any moment. Please help us," Faltas said.

Israel pressed forward with its operation aimed at isolating Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and ridding the West Bank of what it called the "terrorist infrastructure."

But Palestinians called the Israeli campaign state terrorism. With the incursion into Nablus, Israel held control of five of the seven main Palestinian towns.

Arafat remained trapped inside his office building in Ramallah, a town under Israeli control along with Qalqiliya, Tulkarem, Bethlehem and Nablus. Only Hebron and Jericho have been spared so far.

Vatican alarmed

Alarmed by the fighting in Bethlehem, the Vatican said its officials met over the past two days with the Israeli and US envoys to the Holy See and a representative of the Arab League.

Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Holy See's position expressed in the meetings included an "unequivocal condemnation of terrorism, from whichever side it comes," and a disapproval of the "conditions of injustice and humiliation imposed on the Palestinian people" as well as reprisals that "only increase the sense of frustration and hatred."

Navarro-Valls said the Vatican was also calling on all parties to respect UN resolutions, proportionality in the use of legitimate means of defense, and the protection of sites holy to Christians, Muslims and Jews.

Some 200 Palestinians, many of them armed, took refuge in the church, one of Christianity's holiest places, on Tuesday after Israeli forces swept into West Bank cities to root out Palestinians suspected of involvement in suicide attacks.

They are locked in a standoff with Israeli forces outside the church.

The Israeli army says some of the men in the church are "armed terrorists" but that it has given orders not to shoot at churches.

Trapped

Five Italian journalists and an Armenian cameraman spent the night trapped in a monastery next to the church and were only able to get out Wednesday evening following intervention by the Italian government.

American, British and other foreigners were also escorted out of Bethlehem in a convoy of diplomatic vehicles with the aid of the US and British governments.

But 30 Franciscan monks and four nuns, as well as Greek orthodox and Armenian monks, remain in church buildings and adjoining monasteries.

An Israeli security source said late on Wednesday that army officials were negotiating with the Palestinians in the church.

"They are . . . asking that either the armed men leave to be checked by the army or that they allow other people inside to leave," the source said. "There has been no shooting toward the church. There are very strong orders not to attack the church."

Israeli army spokesperson Ron Kitrey said earlier that it had no intention of invading the church by military means. "We want to search it from top to bottom only to see it's not a hiding place for terror activists," he said.

Marc Innaro, a journalist with Italian state broadcaster RAI, said he and his five colleagues got out in a convoy organized by the Italian Embassy.

"We jumped in the armored vehicles as soon as they stopped outside. It was very dangerous," Innaro told Reuters.

He said he feared that the Franciscan monks he had left behind were in "very grave danger."

"We don't have any guarantee of their safety from the Palestinian side or the Israeli side. We don't know what could happen inside the church," he said, adding that the Franciscans wanted the Palestinians to be allowed to leave the church.

Dramatic

The statement of the Vatican's Navarro-Valls spoke of the "dramatic situation" in Bethlehem.

During his meeting with Vatican officials, US Ambassador James Nicholson was given a diplomatic note that contained a message for US President George W. Bush, said a spokesperson for the US Embassy to the Holy See.

Italian news reports described the message as a personal appeal from Pope John Paul II stressing the need to work so that the Israelis and Palestinians would return to the negotiation table.

Nicholson declined to disclose the message's contents, and did not say who it was from. ***Reports from AP, Reuters***

Smart gadgets . . .

From page A1

Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories in Massachusetts, is inspired by the radio tags used to thwart shoplifters, the British weekly New Scientist reported.

Hit

The downside to iGlassware is that it is intrusive—the restaurant knows what you have ordered and how fast you have drunk it.

But, according to Ronald Cole, an expert in hotel and restaurant management at the University of Delaware, iGlassware is bound to be a hit.

A pet peeve of diners is to be kept waiting for beverage service, he told New Scientist.

"Our studies show that if there is a long delay between beverage order time and fill and subsequent refill, customers tend to feel less satisfied about the entire dining experience," he said.

Each glass has a microchip and a thin radio-frequency coil in its base, and its sides are coated with a thin, transparent conductive film.

That makes the glass behave like a capacitor, a device that stores an electrical charge between two conductive plates separated by an insulator.

In this case, the glass' base and sides are the conductive plates, while the drink is the insulator.

As the level of drink falls, so does the insulation, and this progressively raises the charge that goes through to the microchip in the glass' base.

When the microchip receives the "full" charge, it means the glass is empty. It then sends a top-up signal to the waiters' station via a small radio coil built into the table, using a frequency similar to those used by mobile phones.

Every glass has its own ID, and its charge is provided by a radio frequency signal also provided by the table coil.

Lip-reading phone

The Japanese, it seems, are bent on making life easier.

The New Scientist also reported that another Japanese company is developing a gadget that would make shouting down your mobile phone a thing of the past.

In addition to making public places quieter, the lip-reading cell phone could also help people who have lost their voice.

NTT DoCoMo Inc., a subsidiary of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., is working on the world's first lip-reading telephone that could relieve the annoyance of loud cell phone conversations.

"Although still some way off, the phone should put an end to users having to shout down their handsets, even in noisy environments. All they have to do is mouth their words silently, and the phone will convert them to speech or text," according to the magazine.

Engineers at NTT DoCoMo have developed a prototype and hope to have a lip-reading cell phone available in about five years.

Contact sensors near the mouthpiece in the phone detect tiny electrical signals sent by muscles around the mouth. A speech synthesizer converts the signals into spoken words or text for a message or email.

So far the phone can recognize vowels and engineers are now working on consonants.

Reports from AFP and Reuters

Palawan governor says he's ready to face charges

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes is ready to face charges of election overspending to be filed against him by the Commission on Elections, his spokesperson announced yesterday.

Provincial Information Officer Rolando E. Bonoan Jr. issued this statement yesterday after the Comelec en banc upheld the findings of its law department that Reyes overspend in the last election.

The complaint of overspending was filed by former Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, who lost to Reyes in the election.

The Comelec found that Reyes violated the spending limit of P3 per registered voter, but Reyes contended that the limit did not apply to him because, as an independent candidate, he was entitled to a maximum of P5 per voter.

The election body, however, ruled that the evidence showed he was the official candidate of Lakas-NUCD and Kampi.

Reyes himself could not be reached for comment yesterday. He is in Honolulu to attend an executive workshop on water and sanitation at the Asia-Pacific Urban Institute. He will be away for eight days.

Bonoan noted that the Comelec resolution merely called for its law department to file the necessary charges against the governor and assign a Comelec prosecutor. He said it was not an indication that Reyes committed any election offense.

The Comelec resolution said there was a prima facie case against Reyes for overspending. Reyes defeated Hagedorn's by 33,489 votes, but the former Puerto Princesa mayor disputed the results and accused Reyes of violation of election laws, including overspending.

"The governor will exhaust legal remedies to obtain justice and clear his name," Bonoan said, adding that the Comelec law department's arguments were debatable and presumptuous.

Through his spokesperson, Reyes expressed hopes of getting a fair treatment when his case goes to the proper courts and that truth and justice will prevail.

Ramos makes pitch for Boao Forum

ASIA'S answer to Europe's Davos World Economic Forum takes a giant leap when the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) convenes on April 11-13 in its headquarters in Boao, a popular tourist resort, located in the east coast of Hainan, China.

The acceptance to keynote the opening of the 1st annual conference of the Boao Forum by Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji ushers in the establishment of an "Asian Forum" that puts the continent at par with Europe, according to a press statement released by former President Fidel Ramos, one of the forum's prime movers.

The Boao Forum for Asia, a non-governmental and non-profit international organization initiated by 26 countries, was formed to find a permanent site to hold critical conferences on a regular basis, a concept similar but in itself distinct to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

While sharing grounds with other international forums and organizations, the BFA has unique features as it is the first Asia-focused international forum. That, the Ramos statement said, allows the forum to review the world from an Asian perspective.

The vision to establish an "Asian Forum" for shaping Asian perspectives and promoting primarily the development goals of Asian countries through regional economic integration was shared and pursued by Ramos, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke of Australia and former Prime Minister Morohiro Hosokawa of Japan.

Upsilon honors new lawyers

THE UPSILON Sigma Phi Alumni Association Inc. will honor its fellows who topped and passed the recent bar examination with a testimonial dinner at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, at 6 p.m. today.

Among those to be honored are fellows Rodolfo Ma. A. Ponferrada, batch 1997, who placed first, and Anthony Mark A. Gutierrez, 1992, who placed third. Others who will be honored are Juan Victor Valdez, batch 1988, Joseph Philip T. Andres, 1989, Jason J. Alba, 1991. Blas Viterbo, 1991, Francis Coronel, 1992, Juan Javier Paras, 1992, Jonathan Glinoga, 1992, Noel B. Damot, 1993, Rean Sy, 1994.

Upsilonian bar practitioners and topnotchers are also expected to grace the occasion. Former Supreme Court Justice and Law Prof. Jose Campos will give an inspirational talk.

Among the well-known Upsilonians who topped the bar examinations in the past were the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Ramon Fernandez, Justice Flaminiano Feliciano, Domingo Palarca, Dave Puyat, Tadeus Alviso, Estanislao Fernandez, and Arturo Tolentino. Professor Campos, also a bar topnotcher, said that the current Upsilonian bar topnotchers are only keeping up with tradition.

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	5J - 561	Daily	B757	0700	0810			
	5J - 563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010			
	5J - 565	Daily	B757	1100	1210			
	5J - 567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			
	5J - 569	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			
	5J - 571	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	DC9	0600	0740	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699
	5J - 963	Daily	DC9	1050	1230			
	5J - 965	Daily	DC9	1400	1540			
	5J - 967	Daily	DC9	1600	1740			
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	DC9	0610	0735	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699
	5J - 383	Daily	DC9	0930	1055			
	5J - 385	Daily	DC9	1140	1305			
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P2,899	P2,569	P2,199
	5J - 655	Daily	DC9	1210	1320			
	5J - 657	Daily	DC9	1410	1520			
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	DC9	0600	0700	P2,779	P2,449	P2,199
	5J - 455	Daily	DC9	1030	1130			
	5J - 459	Daily	DC9	1600	1700			
BACOLOD	5J - 473	Daily	DC9	0610	0710	P2,779	P2,449	P2,199
	5J - 475	Daily	DC9	1000	1100			
	5J - 479	Daily	DC9	1650	1750			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	DC9	0620	0750	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	DC9	0600	0700	P2,539	P2,199	P1,999
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	DC9	1340	1450	P2,899	P2,569	P2,199
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	DC9	0900	0950	P2,899	P2,569	P2,199
	5J - 341	Daily	DC9	0950	1040			
BUTUAN	5J - 787	Daily	DC9	1000	1125	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 560	Daily	DC9	0700	0810	P2,899	P2,569	P2,199
	5J - 562	Daily	B757	0900	1010			
	5J - 564	Daily	DC9	1200	1310			
	5J - 566	Daily	B757	1300	1410			
	5J - 568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			
	5J - 570	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			
	5J - 572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010			
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	DC9	0855	0945	P2,589	P2,249	P2,049
	5J - 597	Daily	DC9	1450	1540			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	Tu/Th/Sat	DC9	1005	1100	P2,649	P2,319	P2,119
ILOILO	5J - 162	Daily	DC9	0750	0825	P2,099	P1,759	P1,599
	5J - 164	Daily	DC9	1750	1825			
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1100	1130	P1,879	P1,539	P1,399
CLARK	5J - 588	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1100	1220	P2,995	P2,669	P2,399

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	DC9	0820	1000	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699
	5J - 964	Daily	DC9	1310	1450			
	5J - 966	Daily	DC9	1620	1800			
	5J - 968	Daily	DC9	1820	2000			
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	DC9	1025	1115	P2,589	P2,249	P2,049
	5J - 598	Daily	DC9	1620	1710			
ILOILO –via Cebu	5J - 598/164	Daily	DC9	1620	1825	P3,645	P3,195	P2,699
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/W/F/Sun	DC9	1010	1110	P2,649	P2,319	P2,199

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 474	Daily	DC9	0800	0900	P2,779	P2,449	P2,199
	5J - 476	Daily	DC9	1150	1250			
	5J - 480	Daily	DC9	1840	1940			
CEBU	5J - 125	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1220	1250	P1,879	P1,539	P1,399

NOTES:
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ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 788	Daily	DC9	1205	1330	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 454	Daily	DC9	0900	1000	P2,779	P2,449	P2,199
	5J - 456	Daily	DC9	1210	1310			
	5J - 460	Daily	DC9	1740	1840			
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	DC9	0740	0815	P2,099	P1,759	P1,599
	5J - 165	Daily	DC9	1900	1935			
DAVAO –via Cebu	5J - 161/593	Daily	DC9	0740	0945	P3,645	P3,195	P2,699

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,899	P2,569	P2,199
	5J - 656	Daily	DC9	1400	1510			
	5J - 658	Daily	DC9	1600	1710			

ORIGIN: CLARK

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
CEBU	5J - 589	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1300	1420	P2,995	P2,669	P2,399

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	DC9	1150	1320	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699
CEBU	5J - 432	Tu/Th/Sat	DC9	0830	0925	P2,649	P2,319	P2,119
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/W/F/Sun	DC9	0830	0930	P2,649	P2,319	P2,199

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	DC9	0815	0940	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699
	5J - 384	Daily	DC9	1135	1300			
	5J - 386	Daily	DC9	1345	1510			

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	DC9	0740	0840	P2,539	P2,199	P1,999

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	DC9	1530	1640	P2,899	P2,569	P2,199

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	DC9	1030	1120	P2,899	P2,569	P2,199
	5J - 342	Daily	DC9	1120	1210			

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

FROM	- TO	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA
MANILA	- HONGKONG	5J - 110	Daily	B757	0700	0900
		5J - 114	Tu*/W/Sat	B757	1345	1545
		5J - 118	Daily	B757	1640	1840
HONG KONG	- MANILA	5J - 111	Daily	B757	1000	1200
		5J - 115	Tu*/W/Sat	B757	1710	1910
		5J - 119	Daily	B757	1940	2140
MANILA	- SEOUL	5J - 194	M/F/Sun	B757	1340	1840
		5J - 1944	Th	B757	1340	1840
SEOUL	- MANILA	5J - 195	M/F/Sun	B757	1950	2250
		5J - 1955	Th	B757	1950	2250

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Cha-cha congressmen defy Macapagal

From page A1

don't think we'll be in a better situation in 10 years," he added, referring to her statement that Congress could discuss Charter change "after we have overcome poverty in 10 years."

Gonzalez also said it appeared that the President was merely playing it safe.

Nachura said he shared the President's concern for the pending bills, but pointed out that these could be attended to simultaneously with the task of amending the Constitution.

He said certain amendments might even solve the current economic and political problems.

"The President has her own perceptions and we welcome that. We are also happy that she respects the prerogative of Congress," Gonzalez said, referring to Ms Macapagal's statement Wednesday that while she was opposed to Charter change at this time, she would not stop lawmakers from pushing for it.

Nachura said his committee would also push for the convening of barangay assemblies, set tentatively for May 6, to serve as a "sounding board" for Charter change.

But House Assistant Majority Leader Arthur Defensor (3rd district, Iloilo) said the May 6 schedule had been overtaken by the decision of Congress to postpone the barangay elections from May 13 to July 15.

"At the time the resolution was filed, the proponent did not know that the barangay elections will be postponed to July 15," he said.

Besides, Defensor said, Congress would not be able to get an accurate response from the grassroots if the consultations were held before July 15.

"Consultations should be done after July 15 so that these will not distract the focus of Congress in determining the real sentiments of the people, (and to prevent) suspicion that these are politically motivated," he said.

Defensor was among the congressmen who supported House Resolution No. 8, which called on the Department of Interior and Local Government to convene barangay assemblies nationwide to determine the people's stand on the proposed Charter change.

The House committee on constitutional amendments had wanted to hold a plebiscite on the proposed amendments simultaneously with the 2004 national elections.

Groundswell

Nachura said that despite the President's objection, his committee would continue its public consultations on the matter in key areas nationwide.

"It is our mandate to deliberate on proposals to amend the Charter and to conduct public consultations," he said. "We are doing this so we will know what the people really want."

He said there was a "groundswell of support" for the proposal, and the people "really believe there is a need to amend the Constitution."

Nachura cited his committee's public hearing in Iloilo City where some 600 people who had showed up were asked for an "informal show of hands," and "only two or three were against" the proposal.

Gonzalez confirmed this. "There is an overwhelming sentiment from both (chambers) and all parties," he added.

Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano said that while he respected the President's "resistance" to Charter change, "she should not trivialize the conviction of others, as learned and as concerned of the national situation as she is, that the Constitution needs to be overhauled."

In a statement, Albano called for "an enlightened and honest debate" on Charter change and said the President's concern for the problem of poverty and its solution "is of no moment and has no bearing" on the issue.

He said the President's use of the issue as a "carrot" to win approval for her priority bills was not only "unbecoming" but also "betrays a narrow appreciation of the equal importance of (Charter change) and her pet bills to the national welfare."

"Leveraging in such a manner works both ways," Albano warned. "*Quid pro quo* is a double blade. Congress can also play the President's gambit."

Election

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, who once served as Ms Macapagal's chief of staff, suggested that her supporters might be worried that her chances for election in 2004 could be derailed by the proposed Charter change.

"This will not affect her chances of becoming President (again) in 2004," he said. "The Legislative should follow its tradition of independence and should not be bullied by the Executive branch."

Villarama said Ms Macapagal should not object to amending the Constitution. "If she has been quoted correctly, she's missing this historic opportunity to be great," he said, adding that the proposed Charter change would "not fly without the presidential imprimatur."

He also pointed out that the failure to pass urgent bills could be blamed on the bicameral legislature, which he said wanted changed.

He cited the Special Purpose Vehicle Act, which the House hurriedly passed last month even in the absence of a counterpart bill in the Senate.

It's time

Late last year, Defensor filed House Resolution No. 257 calling for Charter change through a constitutional convention.

When he filed the measure in October last year, Defensor said he believed that now was the most appropriate time to consider a constitutional convention because it would not be viewed as a maneuver to extend the term of the President or other elective officials.

"Among other things, it can't be interpreted to benefit the incumbent elective officials," he added.

In the case of Ms Macapagal, Defensor said the Charter could be amended without extending her term because she would still be eligible for election.

"I believe that if we keep on postponing (the move), we might end up not amending the Constitution at all," he said. "In the past, many kept on saying that it was not timely. The question is, when is it time to go on with it?"

Defensor said he would prefer a constitutional convention composed of delegates from congressional districts rather than the convening of Congress as a constituent assembly.

"Congressmen do not have the monopoly of political wisdom. There are hundreds of bright minds outside the halls of Congress," he said.

THE YAN and Castro clans came in full force to bid goodbye to an endlessly loved family member. JOAN BONDOC

SUMMONING all her strength, Yan's mother, Cita Castro-Yan, speaks on behalf of the family after the funeral Mass. Elder son Bobby stands by for moral support. JOAN BONDOC

Rico Yan: A funeral . . .

From page A1

at the Manila Memorial Park. Some came all the way from Isabela, Iligan, Leyte, Iloilo, Pangasinan and Laguna.

The night before, thousands kept vigil outside the La Salle Greenhills chapel so they could attend the burial. There were those who came in buses and jeeps from the provinces and endured the heat, hunger, thirst and a sleepless night.

"When I first heard the news, my first question was, 'Why Lord?' Then I asked, 'Why Rico?'" Yan's mother, Teresita Castro-Yan, said in an eloquent response at the end of the funeral Mass at the La Salle gymnasium.

"Now it makes sense. Having given joy to so many people, I could not believe that he will leave us sad, distraught or grief-stricken. But with all of you who came here today, I am convinced that he was chosen by God for such a time as this."

Yan's mother and other immediate family members—dad Robby, brother Bobby and sisters Geraldine and Tina—wore black. Everyone else came in white, as requested by the actor when he used to joke with friends.

In his moving homily during the funeral Mass, Fr. Tito Caluag, Yan's spiritual adviser, disclosed that Rico had wanted to become president.

"Rico wanted to be a leader but never mentioned leadership because he only wanted to serve," said Caluag. "He wanted to be like JFK who gave America a sense of pride and class, and inspired his people," said the Jesuit, who concelebrated the Mass with four other priests.

"(Rico) will never become president of this nation," Caluag said. "He found a better way. He found a better place. In death, Rico is much larger than life. In death, Rico served his hopes and dreams."

Caluag ended his homily with a line from William Shakespeare's "Hamlet"—"Good night, sweet prince. And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

After Mass, Gary Valenciano moved everyone to tears when he sang "The Warrior is a Child," said to have been another "request" of Yan's.

Not a dry eye

At the Manila Memorial Park, there wasn't a dry eye when Yan was laid to rest at noon yesterday. Ten huge tents had been set up in front of the Yan mausoleum. Yan was buried beside his grandmother, Amelia Yan, in the niche originally meant for his grandfather, former AFP chief of staff and ambassador Manuel Yan, who also served as political adviser on the peace process during the term of former President Joseph Estrada.

Yan's grandfather was also the chair of the government panel that negotiated peace with the Moro National Liberation Front from 1993 to 1996, during the term of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Yan's maternal grandfather, retired Col. Isabelo Castro, was one of the pallbearers who carried the casket into the funeral car.

Claudine

Yan's girlfriend of four years, Claudine Barretto, from whom he was estranged at the time of his death, sat with her older sister Marjorie and Olive Lamasan, director of the Claudine-Rico box-office hit "Got 2 Believe."

Barretto opted not to catch a last glimpse of the actor during the Mass and at the interment. She caused quite a stir when she left the cemetery right after the burial.

Friends

Others at the funeral were ABS-CBN executives Malou Santos, Linggit Tan, Pat-P Daza, Lawrence Tan, Rikka Dylim, and contract stars Agot Isidro, Diether Ocampo, Pops Fernandez, Piolo Pascual, Janna Victoria, Onemig Bondoc, Vhong Navarro, Leandro Muñoz and Angela Velez.

TV director Edgar Mortiz of the daily noontime show "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan," where Rico was a mainstay, led the hosts of the program—Randy Santiago, John Estrada, Vanessa del Bianco, Ai-Ai de las Alas, Amy Perez, Bayani Agbayani, Bentong and Gary Lim—in taking a last look at the actor before the Mass.

Yan's "Whattamen" co-stars Marvin Agustin and Dominic Ochoa served as scripture readers. Pallbearers included Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri and Yan's elder brother Bobby.

"I will miss his *pangungulit*," said Zubiri, who placed his scapular inside Yan's coffin. "Rico was very down to earth and *cariñoso*. He called everybody sweetheart."

The cortege started at the westbound portion of Ortigas and proceeded to Connecticut Street toward Edsa and onto the Skyway. It exited at the Sucat Interchange on the way to the cemetery.

Nearly a hundred vehicles joined the motorcade, causing heavy traffic along Edsa and the South Luzon Expressway. From the Sucat Interchange to the gate of the memorial park, hundreds clogged the streets. Some carried flowers and posters of Yan. Others shouted, "I love you, Rico," as the funeral car passed.

The Manila Metropolitan Development Authority (MMDA) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) deployed more than 200 police officers and traffic enforcers at key areas from La Salle to the Manila Memorial Park. Yan's uncle, Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, is the National Capital Region Police Office chief.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez also assigned local police to facilitate traffic and secure the Manila Memorial Park. The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) sent an ambulance with a first-aid crew.

Crowd of 10,000

An estimated crowd of more than 10,000 had gathered inside the cemetery by the time the funeral car arrived.

Two boxes were placed on both sides of the mausoleum for those who wanted to make a donation to the newly formed Rico Yan Youth Foundation, led by Bobby Yan.

ABS-CBN chair Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III pledged to send three scholars to college. Yan's fellow stars at ABS-CBN were appointed honorary members.

SO NEAR and yet so far, Claudine Baretto, Yan's ex-, keeps her distance during the funeral Mass and at the interment rites. JOAN BONDOC

From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., ABS-CBN aired Yan's funeral live. Anchors were assigned at strategic points, giving live feeds to studio hosts Boy Abunda and Tintin Bersola.

The remote anchors were Karen Davila, Ryan Agoncillo, Catherine de Castro and Maricar Bautista in Greenhills; Julius Babao, Cheri Mercado and Gigi Grande at Manila Memorial Park, and Pia Guanio on board the ABS-CBN chopper "Sky Patrol."

Yan was found dead in bed on March 29, Good Friday, in a cottage at the Dos Palmas Resort in Puerto Princesa. An autopsy showed he died of hemorrhagic pancreatitis resulting in cardiac arrest.

Yan's death sparked nationwide interest and eclipsed other news stories like the fire in the Baseco compound in Tondo, which displaced more than 3,000 families.

It also overshadowed the deaths of 16 Filipinos in Dubai, of National Artists Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio, of Britain's Queen Mother and of Hollywood actor Dudley Moore.

Gloria brings life to Levi Celerio's wake

From page A1

vigil at the wake of the "Poet of Philippine Music."

After all, Celerio was an artist. Not a pop idol like Rico Yan. Adored by the masses, Yan's death, wake and funeral were attended by mass hysteria. It was a media event on countless primetime TV tributes that extolled the young actor's virtues as a role model for the youth.

An hour before Ms Macapagal arrived about 10 p.m. Tuesday, a member of her advance party briefed relatives of Chinese matriarch Ong Choe Cue, whose remains lay in state in one of the chapels in Funeraria Paz, that security would be tight in preparation for Ms Macapagal's visit. The female staff member had to explain to the relatives that Ms Macapagal was paying her last respects to Celerio because he was a National Artist.

The funeral wreaths that arrived before Ms Macapagal were also thoroughly inspected.

She arrived quietly at the chapel where Celerio's songs were continuously played and sang by a group of Born Again Christian musicians with whom Celerio had jammed at his regular stints at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City shortly before his death.

The President planned to stay at the wake for only 10 minutes, said her personal secretary Len Bautista, but she stayed for almost an hour.

"This visit was not even planned," Bautista said. "I think she's enjoying the music that's why we're still here."

Ms Macapagal sat on a front row pew chatting beside Lina Belen, one of the two longtime companions of Celerio. Silently, she mouthed the words of some of Celerio's songs that the musicians played.

Belen, who now lives in the United States, returned to the Philippines to bury Celerio. She has four children with him.

Although Ms Macapagal allowed press photographers and a member of the Celerio family to take her pictures, and television crews to shoot footages of her visit, she did not want to be interviewed, said Bautista.

Celerio's children with his first wife, Adela David, also squeezed into the same pew with the President. But Ms Macapagal, who signed her name on the guest book and offered a wreath, which was placed beside the coffin, spoke mostly to Belen.

3 different women

Celerio had 12 children by three different women.

"There is no animosity among us and our father's other women and their children," Olivia Celerio, 46, Celerio's only daughter with Adela, said in Filipino. "We call her Tita Lina and the other one Tita Leoni. We all get along."

Olivia, a public school teacher, said her father instilled in all his children Christian values. "He wanted us to love one another," she said. "He taught us to be kind and gentle, to accept people for what they are. My Daddy loved life. He also loved his freedom."

Family squabble

Belen brushed aside questions regarding Celerio's squabble with eldest son Joey over the P24,000 monthly government stipend Celerio received as a National Artist.

"That was nothing," she said. "You know how it is in families. There would be disagreements, but we would always make up with our father."

But Celerio's youngest son with Adela, Levi Jr. said the fight between his father and older brother Joey happened because Celerio had entrusted the collection of his stipend to Maria Lourdes Villacarlos, who acted as his manager.

"We were only looking out for him," Levi said in Filipino. "We did not see any of the money anymore since he and Peach (Villacarlos' nickname) collected it together."

Not poor

Both Levi Jr. and Olivia denied their father had been poor.

"He was a very simple man and he wanted to live a simple life," said Olivia.

The siblings claimed Celerio spent his money on himself and not on his children.

"We all supported ourselves," said Levi Jr. who works as an animator.

But Levi Jr., who lived with Celerio and Joey in an apartment in Quezon City, admitted that Celerio paid their rent.

"But now that he's dead, of course, he would no longer be paying our rent," said Levi before abruptly ending the conversation.

But Olivia stressed that none of Celerio's children were financially dependent on their father. Not even his longtime companions Lina and Leoni and their children asked Celerio for money, she said.

Before Celerio was hospitalized, he still performed in town fiestas and hotels, and had earned money from these shows, Olivia said.

"Well, Levi never became rich, but I don't know if he was penniless when he died," said Ric Manrique Jr. "If he were poor at the end, it was because of how he managed his life. But one thing I know, he enjoyed his life."

The date of Celerio's burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani will be announced later, said eldest son Joey. He said that next Wednesday, Celerio's remains will be transferred to the Cultural Center of the Philippines as befits a National Artist.

TAX FILING ... THE HASSLE-FREE WAY

Substituted Filing of ITR • Electronic Filing & Payment System (EFPS)

RR 3-2002 - Amending RR 2-98 Relative to the Submission of Alphabetical List of Employees/Payees in Diskette Form and Substituted Filing of Income Tax Returns

I. Substituted Filing of Income Tax Return (ITR)

1. **Is "substituted filing of ITR" the same as non-filing of ITR?**

   "Substituted" and "Non"-filing of ITR are not one and the same.

   - **Non-filing of ITR** – applicable to certain type of individuals who are not required by law to file an ITR. One example is an employee whose pure compensation income within a taxable year does not exceed P60,000, has only one employer for the taxable year and whose tax withheld is equivalent to the tax due.
   - **Substituted filing of ITR** – the employer's annual information return (BIR Form No. 1604-CF) may be considered the "substituted" ITR of the employee inasmuch as the information he would have provided the BIR in his own ITR (BIR Form No. 1700) would have been exactly the same information contained in the employer's annual information return.

2. **How does "substituted filing" differ from the current practice of ITR filing?**

Filing/ Submission Date	Current Practice	Substituted Filing
Monthly during calendar year	Employer pays employee salary net of withholding tax. Employer remits withholding tax to BIR.	
January 31 of succeeding year	• Employer files annual information return (BIR Form No. 1604-CF) with BIR • Employer gives employee copy of withholding tax certificate (BIR Form No. 2316)	
April 15	Employee files income tax return (BIR Form No. 1700	Employee and employer execute Joint Certification. Joint Certification is not submitted to the BIR. [Note: the substitute return is BIR Form No. 1604-CF which will be filed by the employer]

3. **What is a "Joint Certification"?**

   The "Joint Certification" is a ***sworn statement*** (standard form which may be downloaded from BIR website) made by the employer and the employee, which serves the following purposes:

   - It contains the employee's consent that BIR Form No. 1604-CF may be considered his substituted return, in lieu of BIR Form No. 1700, which the employee no longer filed.
   - It contains the employer's certification that he has reported the employee's income to the BIR and that he has remitted the taxes on the employee's income, as indicated in BIR Form No. 1604-CF.
   - It serves as proof of financial capacity in case the employee decides to apply for a bank loan or a credit card, or for any other purpose, as if he had in fact filed a BIR Form No. 1700.

4. **Under what circumstances will "substituted filing of ITR" apply?**

   Substituted filing applies only if ***all*** the following circumstances are present:

   - The employee receives ***purely compensation income*** (regardless of amount) during the taxable year
   - The employee receives the income only from ***one employer*** during the taxable year
   - The ***amount of tax due*** from the employee at the end of the year ***equals*** the ***amount of tax withheld by the employer***
   - The employee's spouse also complies with all three conditions stated above

5. **Who are not qualified for substituted filing of BIR Form No. 1700?**

   The following individuals are not qualified for substituted filing:

   a) Individuals deriving compensation income from ***two or more employers*** concurrently or successively at anytime during the taxable year
   b) Employees deriving compensation income, regardless of the amount, whether from a single or several employers during the calendar year, the income tax of which has not been withheld correctly (i.e., ***tax due is not equal to the tax withheld***) resulting to collectible or refundable return
   c) Employees whose ***monthly gross compensation income does not exceed Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)*** or the statutory minimum wage, whichever is higher, and opted for non-withholding of tax on said income
   d) Individuals deriving other ***non-business, non-profession-related income*** in addition to compensation income not otherwise subject to a final tax
   e) Individuals receiving purely compensation income from a single employer, although the income tax of which has been correctly withheld, but whose ***spouse is not entitled to substituted filing***
   f) ***Non-resident aliens engaged in trade or business in the Philippines*** deriving purely compensation income, or compensation income and other business or profession related income

6. **What about bank's requirement for submission of an ITR for loan or credit card applications?**

   Banks may require the submission of BIR Form No. 1700 (for employees not entitled to substituted filing of ITR) or Joint Certification only (for employees entitled to substituted filing) to satisfy their loan or credit card application requirements.

7. **When does substituted filing take effect?**

   It takes effect this year, on 2001 income. Thus, employees that ***qualify*** for substituted filing for taxable year 2001 need not file BIR Form No. 1700 on April 15. This is because these employees were deemed to have filed their ITR when their respective employers filed their annual information return (BIR Form No. 1604-CF) for 2001 last January 31, 2002.

8. **Can an employee file an ITR (BIR Form No. 1700) even if he or she is qualified for substituted filing?**

   For this year, covering taxable income earned in 2001, substituted filing is ***optional on the part of the employee (not the employer)***.

II. Employees Subject to Final Tax

1. **What types of employees are subject to final tax?**

   These are ***aliens*** who are employed by regional operating headquarters, regional or area headquarters, offshore banking units, petroleum service contractors and sub-contractors. In some cases, ***Filipino citizens*** occupying the same positions as the alien employees may also be subject to final tax.

2. **Are alien employees required to file an ITR?**

   Under the old and present regulations, said employees are not required to file an ITR, if their sole income comes from their employment with the above-mentioned entities. This is because the income is already subject to a 15% final tax that is withheld by the employer. The employer gives the employee a copy of ***BIR Form No. 2306***, which is a certificate issued by the employer indicating that he has withheld and remitted the 15% tax.

3. **What new provisions were introduced in the regulations with respect to alien employees?**

   The regulations makes it clear that BIR Form No. 2306 serves the requirement of the Bureau of Immigration for the submission of an ITR to support the extension of alien certificate of registration. In view of this, alien employees can now dispense with the filing of the ITR that they were not obliged to file in the first place.

III. Submission of Diskettes

1. **Are all withholding agents required to file the alphabetical list of employees/payees in diskette form?**

   No. This requirement applies only to withholding agents that have ten (10) or more employees/payees. For those that have less than ten (10) employees, this requirement is optional.

   The sanction for not filing the list in diskette format is mandatory audit of the withholding agents tax liabilities (including withholding tax).

2. **Are withholding agents filing the alphabetical list in diskette form still required to file a hard copy of BIR Form No. 1604-CF/1604-E together with the alphabetical list?**

   Yes.

3. **When is the effectivity of Revenue Regulations No. 3-2002?**

   The regulations shall take effect immediately and shall cover taxable year 2002 and succeeding years, except for: (a) substituted filing of income tax return, which shall be optional for the taxable year 2001 and (b) the submission of manually prepared alphabetical list of employees/payees, which shall be effective for the taxable year 2001.

RR 2-2002 - Amending the Coverage of the Electronic Filing & Payment System (EFPS)

1. **What is RR 2-2002 all about?**

   RR 2-2002 amends certain provisions of RR 9-2001 by making it mandatory for Large Taxpayers and optional to certain identified Non-Large Taxpayers to avail of the EFPS in the filing of their tax returns and the payment of taxes due thereon.

2. **What is the coverage of the EFPS?**

   - **Large Taxpayers** – required to e-file 1702 Income Tax Return (ITR) on or before April 15 beginning calendar year 2001 and all fiscal years, as well as calendar years thereafter. For tax returns that will be filed until June 30, 2002, Large Taxpayers will have the option to pay their taxes electronically via EFPS or manually. Beginning July 1, 2002, however, Large Taxpayers are required to e-file all tax returns that can be e-filed via EFPS and e-pay the taxes due thereon.
   - **Non-Large Taxpayers**- effective July 1, 2002, two hundred (200) Non-Large Taxpayers identified by the BIR shall have the option to avail of the EFPS in the filing of tax returns and payment of taxes due thereon.
   - **Other Taxpayers** - taxpayers not covered above shall not file their tax returns and pay tax due thereon using the EFPS until an appropriate Revenue Regulations shall have been issued.

3. **Is the filing of tax return ahead of the payment of tax due still in accordance with the "pay-as-you-file" principle?**

   Yes, for as long as the payment of tax is made on or before the due date of the applicable tax.

4. **When is the effectivity of this regulations?**

   Effective on the date of publication of the regulations, which is March 28, 2002.

NOTE: Full text of the Revenue Regulations may be accessed at the BIR website.

KEEP HELPING BUILD OUR NATION.
PLEASE PAY YOUR TAXES.

DEADLINE FOR FILING OF INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR 2001 IS ON APRIL 15, 2002.

www.bir.gov.ph

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Olivetti makes 5th defense

REIGNING superbantamweight champion Dino Olivetti will make his 5th title defense against second-ranked contender Roberto Oyan as part of the Battle of Bataan slated tomorrow at the People's Coliseum in the city of Balanga. The event is promoted by Jun Sarreal. Gov. Ding Roman donates the championship belt.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 9:30 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA - Dallas Mavericks vs LA Clippers at 10 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour at 11 a.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

PGA - Shell Houston Open Highlights at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

SPORTSWATCH

Bonds sparks Giants win

LOS ANGELES—Barry Bonds hit two home runs Wednesday, giving him four in two games, to lead the San Francisco Giants over the Los Angeles Dodgers 12-0. The San Francisco slugger became the second player in history to homer twice in the opening two games of a season, joining Hall of Famer Eddie Mathews, who did it for the Milwaukee Braves in 1958. The two homers—both over 132 meters (440 feet)—lifted Bonds' career total to 571, leaving him two behind Harmon Killebrew for sixth on the career list. Bonds hit a three-run homer off Hideo Nomo (0-1) in the first inning, before adding a solo shot off Terry Mulholland in the fourth to trigger a six-run burst that gave the Giants a 10-0 lead. Bonds, who set records by hitting 73 homers and drawing 177 walks last year, had two homers and five RBIs Tuesday as the Giants opened the season with a 9-2 victory over the Dodgers. After two games, Bonds has five hits in six at-bats, five runs scored and nine RBIs. He has reached base eight straight times after popping out in his first at-bat. *AP*

Motoring show tomorrow

THE PREMIER summer motoring event, Trans Sport Show 2002, opens tomorrow at the fifth level of Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. The nine-day show will end on April 14 and is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Trans Sports Show is one event that is very supportive of motor racing. Last year, the show had on display the Ferrari Formula 1 car driven by 2001 World Champion Michael Schumacher, courtesy of Pilipinas Shell. Trans Sport Show 2002 will promote the Asian Festival of Speed, forthcoming this April 13 to 14. The international racing event is the season opening race for the FIA sanctioned Asian Formula 2000 and Asian Touring Car Championship. The Touring Car race will have two divisions, the 2.0 liter saloon and the 1.6 liter saloon.

Panopio powers Manila chessers

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Rodolfo Panopio, one of several players who elected to waive their national master titles, rolled to his third straight victory at board three to lift Manila to a close 2.5-1.5 victory over Muntinlupa A in the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities chess championship Thursday at the Highlander Hotel here. Panopio, a fixture in many national tournaments, upsets Oliver Dimakiling to nail the lone victory for Manila. The rest of the matches pitting (Manila player first) National Master Ben Flores against International Master Nelson Mariano, NM Rolly Martinez against IM Jayson Gonzales and Truman Hernaez against Jerome Balico ended in draws. Grandmaster Joey Antonio saw his winning streak end at five games, settling for a draw with NM Roberto Suelo. GM Eugene Torre, who is disputing the gold medal with Antonio at board one, picked up his fifth win at the expense of Fide Master Jesse Noel Sales to lead QC A to a slim 2.5-1.5 squeaker over Tagbilaran City.

Davao entry ousts top seed

LOCAL entry Lourdes Binoya eliminated top seed Patricia Adaza of Mati, Davao Oriental, 4-6, 6-3, 11-9, yesterday to reach the girls' 16-under semifinals in the Head-Penn age-group tennis tournament in Davao. In the boys' 12-under category, top seed Gerard Bergavera of Bacolod defeated Andrei Dizon of Davao City, 6-0, 6-1, and second pick Mark Balce of Manila downed Ed Michael Putiz of Cotabato City, 6-2, 6-1, to gain quarterfinal slots. Also advancing were Ronald Macalos of Surigao, Francis Casey Alcantara of Cagayan de Oro, Ryan Benejos of Digos City, Gerard Pinili of Cotabato City and Juan Carlo Pantua. First-round winners in the boys' 14-under class were John Galinato of Isulan over Kervey Villa Agustin, 6-1, 6-1; Ed Michael Putiz of Cotabato City over Big John Amerkhan, 5-7, 6-1, 12-10; Alexis Lapaz of Mati over Ronald Macalos, 6-1, 6-0 and Cyril Makiputin of Bansalan over Melvon Cabardo, 5-7, 6-1, 10-8.

Sy captures 10-under crown

BAGUIO—Akio Sy bagged his second Milo title following a 6-2, 6-1 victory past Joselito Cortez in the unisex 10-under division at the close of the 2002 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop Tuesday here at the Baguio Tennis Club. Sy shared the limelight with Baguio's Jimmy Tangalin, Bambi Zoleta and first batch winners Gerard Ngo and sister Angelica, Andrew Tangalin and Korean Chung Soo-Han. Jimmy Tangalin routed Borgs Solpico, 6-1, 6-1; while Bambi Zoleta demolished Anna Lorraine Tan in the girls' 12-under and 14-under brackets in the Milo netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids with sanction from Philta. On hand to award the prizes were Philta VP for Cordillera Autonomous Region Col. Demy Andrada and club president engineer Richard Solang.

Coca-Cola routs Red Bull

GAMES TODAY: Ynares Center
5:05 p.m.—Selecta vs Shell
7:05 p.m.—Fedex vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

COCA-COLA applied a sticky defense throughout to rout Batang Red Bull, 96-77, last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Victory actually came early for the Tigers as they posted a huge 48-30 margin en route to their sixth win in nine outings.

Ato Morano erupted from the trifecta territory, sinking four of his six triples in the first half as the Tigers tore the game apart.

Despite reacquiring the services of Tony Lang, Batang Red Bull was a picture of frustration as the Thunder were outplayed in all departments from start to finish.

Lang, a Duke University alum who gave Red Bull its first title during the Commissioner's Cup last year, typified the Thunders' lack of fire as he debuted with only 12 points, 10 of them made in the final half when the game was already beyond redemption.

Ron Hale, Lang's teammate in a recent tournament in Japan, held the key in stopping Lang from doing his usual stuff while registering a triple-double—14 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists.

"He (Hale) just took Tony (Lang) out of the picture. He has that remarkable knack of taking over a ballgame without even scoring bigtime," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

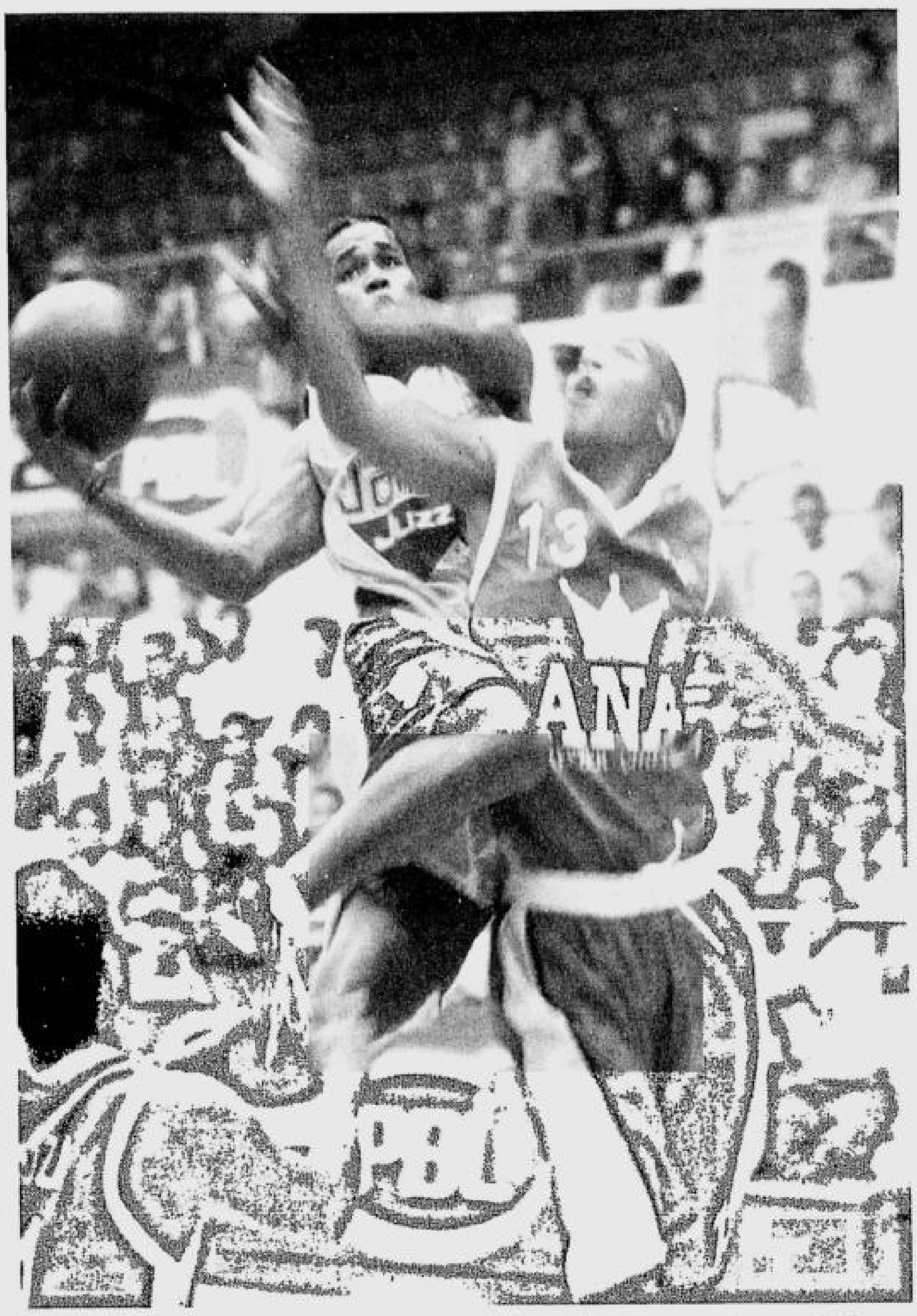
Out of focus were the Thunder's pool of consistent shooters led by skipper Jimwell Torion, Junthy Valenzuela, Willie Miller, Vince Hizon, Anton Villoria and Lordy Tugade.

Scores:

COCA-COLA 96—Ellis 24, Morano 17, Abuda 14, Hale 14, Ballesteros 8, Avenido 7, Briones 6, Antonio 4, Gamboa 2, Bolado 0, Misolas 0.

RED BULL 77—Bunn 30, Lang 12, Tugade 12, Reyes 6, Valenzuela 5, Miller 4, Hizon 3, Torion 3, Se 2, Villoria 0, Mendoza 0, Asaytono 0.

Quarters: 23-10, 48-30, 70-49, 96-77.



ARNOLD Booker of John-O-Juzz (with ball) is fouled by Ana Freezer's Roland Pascual while gliding to the basket on Wednesday in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum. John-O won, 102-101.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PBL: Shark tests Kutitap's mettle today

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs Montaña
6 p.m.—Kutitap vs Shark

STANDINGS	W	L
ICTSI La Salle	1	0
John-O-Juzz	1	0
Shark Energy	0	0
Ateneo	0	0
Montaña	0	0
Kutitap	0	0
RP	0	0
Ana	0	1
Blu	0	1

By Dennis U. Eroa

MINUS its go-to guy, can Shark still flash a deadly bite?

The answer will be known today as the Energy Drink Kings test the character of title-hungry Kutitap Toothpaste at 6 p.m. in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Shark, winner of two Challenge Cup titles, will no longer parade the high-flying Chester Tolomia, whose clutch hits rescued the Energy Drink Kings from dire straits in the past. Tolomia and teammate Gilbert Malabanan are now playing for Barangay Ginebra in the PBA.

"Kutitap is fielding a talent-laden team and this is a big game for us,"said Shark mentor Leo Austria. Peppery playmaker Michael Robinson is also out of the team after transferring to the Olongapo Volunteers in the MBA.

Carrying the load for Shark are Clarence Cole, Ismael Junio, Ervin Sotto and speedy Warren Ybañez.

Kutitap will bank on mainstays Cyrus Baguio, Mark Saquilayan and Niño Gelig. It also recruited 6-foot-6 James Razon, Cesar Catli, Francis Jones and Christian Luanzon.

Ateneo battles Montaña in the 4 p.m. curtainraiser. Winners of both matches will join ICTSI-La Salle and newcomer John-O-Juzz which prevailed over their respective foes in the opener on Wednesday.

I'm done for the season—Jordan

WASHINGTON—A day after his worst scoring game ever, Michael Jordan woke up with a swollen right knee and decided enough was enough.

Jordan was placed on the injured list Wednesday by the Washington Wizards, and he said he is done for the season.

JORDAN

"I think it is best at this point to rest the knee and let it heal properly," Jordan said in a statement. "I tried to get back and play as soon as possible and, early on, the knee responded well. But after the swelling this morning, I think it's best to give it rest."

Jordan ends his season with a 22.9-point scoring average, the second lowest of his career. He averaged 22.7 in his second season with the Chicago Bulls in 1985-86, when played just 18 games because of a broken foot.

"He's a great competitor and he demonstrated that he can come back and be a top-10 player," NBA commissioner David Stern said in Toronto. "I hope he's better for next year."

Jordan, 39, also will have played for a non-playoff team for the first time, unless the Wizards overtake Indiana for the last Eastern Conference berth in the final two weeks of the season. The Wizards trailed the Pacers by 1-1/2 games with eight remaining going into Wednesday night's game at Milwaukee.

Jordan reiterated he plans to play next season if he is able.

"I signed a two-year contract to play," Jordan said. "Obviously, my health will always determine my playing status. But at this time, my plan is to play next season."

Jordan rushed his rehabilitation from the arthroscopic surgery Feb. 27 that repaired torn cartilage in the knee. He missed just 12 games and returned March 20 in Denver. He was a reserve in all seven games after he came back, and his knee bothered him so much that he wasn't able to play unless he pedaled an exercise bicycle in the tunnel during games.

"Michael did absolutely everything to come back as quickly as possible to help this team in our playoff push," general manager Wes Unseld said. "In doing that, Michael probably pushed a little too hard."

Jordan played a career-low 12 minutes and scored a career-low two points—all in the first half—in Tuesday night's 113-93 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers. For the first time in his career, he was a marginal, no-factor player off the bench.

COMPLETE RESULTS: Toronto 117, Chicago 104; Charlotte 97, Miami 90; Philadelphia 89, Phoenix 83, OT; Sacramento 107, Detroit 86; Milwaukee 105, Washington 90; Minnesota 92, Memphis 81; New Jersey 94, L.A. Lakers 92; San Antonio 90, Seattle 88; Utah 99, L.A. Clippers 87. *AP*

Shaq-less Lakers lose

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—After blowing an early 19-point lead the New Jersey Nets scored 16 of the game's final 22 points to claim a 94-92 win over the Los Angeles Lakers. Los Angeles played without Shaquille O'Neal, out with a sprained right wrist. Kobe Bryant scored 33 points and almost tied the game just before the final buzzer, bursting in from the 3-point line but missing a tip-in of a missed free throw by Rick Fox.

NBA magazine now on sale

THE NEWEST issue of Tower Sports' NBA magazine is now out in time for the stretch run of the 2001-02 NBA season.

The issue, which coincides with the battle for the final playoff spots in both the Eastern and Western Conferences, features articles on the greatest dunkers of all time, the star-studded 1996 class of rookies that has turned out some of today's biggest stars, a restrospective on the legendary Bill Russell, George Gervin and Walt Frazier, and the usual team-by-team look at both conferences as the NBA's regular season winds down.

The magazine is edited by Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Henry Liao and features pieces by a slew of local NBA authorities like Bert Ramirez,Butch Maniego, Ed Tolentino and Edwin Khu.

Tower Sports' latest NBA collectible is now available at all leading bookstores and magazine stands at a bargain price of P120.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Rikki DyLiacco timed 46.38 seconds to capture the TMO Slalom Challenge Summer Nationals at the San Fernando, La Union airport. Also today in 1994, Joey Almeda clocked 1:03.51 to bag the Shell Helix Ultra Slalom Runoff top honors in Subic.

6 events usher in MYG

SIX disciplines will usher in the first Manila Youth Games (MYG) on Monday, a day after the festive opening ceremonies on Sunday.

The Rizal Memorial Sports Complex will be a busy hub as action in badminton, football, gymnastics, softball, table tennis and lawn tennis commence among children—athletes aged 12 years and below.

The historic venue has been spruced up for the MYG set April 7 to 14.

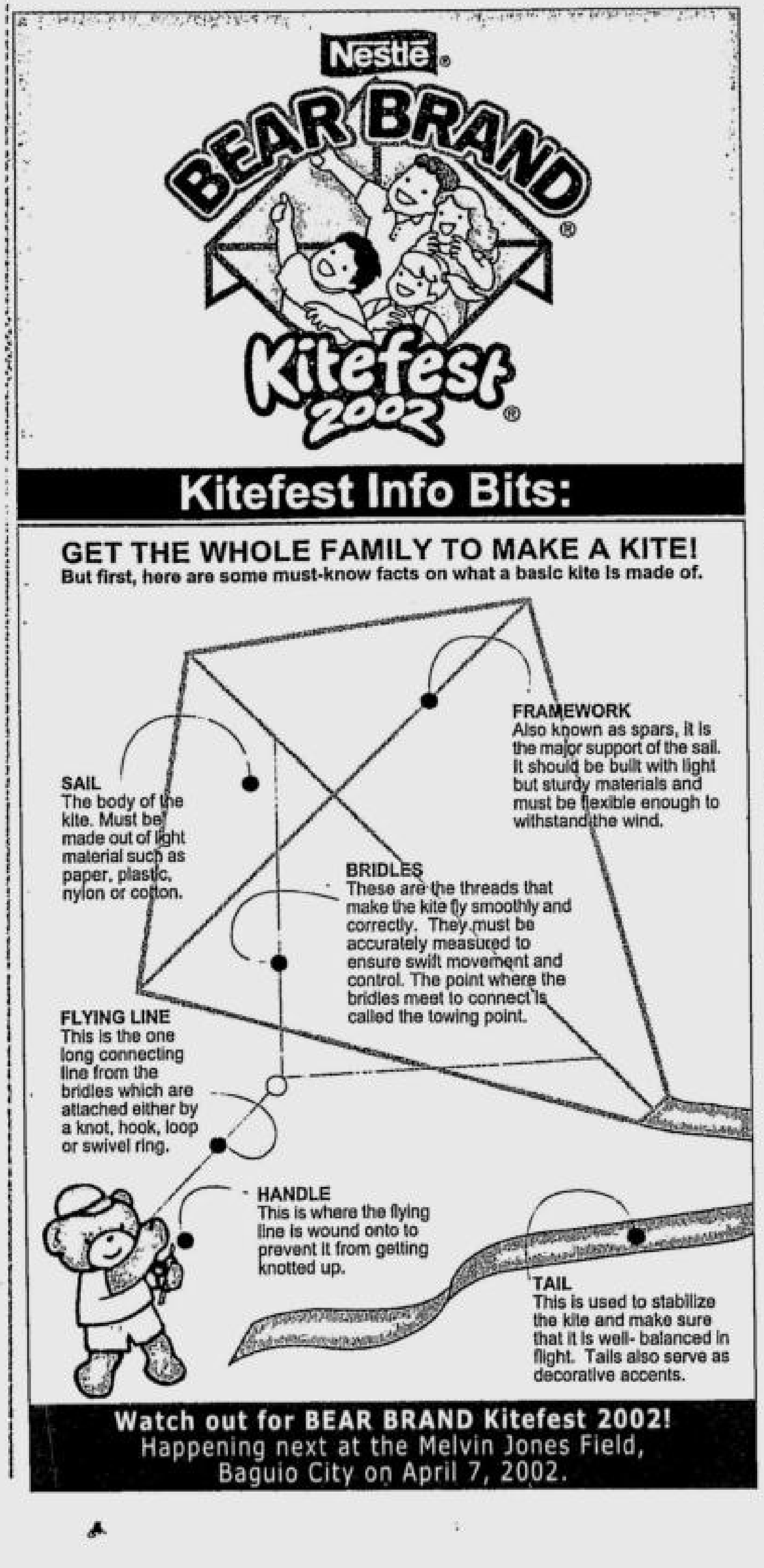
"We have been advised that the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex is ready for the MYG," said Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chair of the organizing Manila Sports council (Masco), Manila City Hall's sports arm.

"Not only will the tradition that is Rizal Memorial Sports complex inspire the kids, but its spruced up condition as well."

An estimated 3,000 children athletes are competing in the inaugural MYG, a pet program of the Masco under Atienza which was inspired by Manila's domination of the third Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy last December in Bacolod City.

Dancesports and volleyball will commence Tuesday also at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, while chess begins hostilities April 10 at the nearby San Andres gym, one of dozens of sports facilities either rehabilitated or erected under the administration of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

The centerpiece athletics competitions will fire off its three-day schedule beginning April 11. On April 13, taekwondo will take centerstage at the San Andres gym while swimming, the very sport Manila dominated on its way to the Batang Pinoy overall championships, will take place also at Rizal Memorial.



Kitefest Info Bits:

GET THE WHOLE FAMILY TO MAKE A KITE!
But first, here are some must-know facts on what a basic kite is made of.

SAIL
The body of the kite. Must be made out of light material such as paper, plastic, nylon or cotton.

FRAMEWORK
Also known as spars, it is the major support of the sail. It should be built with light but sturdy materials and must be flexible enough to withstand the wind.

BRIDLES
These are the threads that make the kite fly smoothly and correctly. They must be accurately measured to ensure swift movement and control. The point where the bridles meet to connect is called the towing point.

FLYING LINE
This is the one long connecting line from the bridles which are attached either by a knot, hook, loop or swivel ring.

HANDLE
This is where the flying line is wound onto to prevent it from getting knotted up.

TAIL
This is used to stabilize the kite and make sure that it is well- balanced in flight. Tails also serve as decorative accents.

Watch out for BEAR BRAND Kitefest 2002!
Happening next at the Melvin Jones Field,
Baguio City on April 7, 2002.

'Swing' golf to stake Revo VY200

A TOYOTA Revo VY200 is the hole-in-one prize in the Swing to R.E.A.P. tournament on April 12 at Canlubang North Course.

"The designated hole for this special prize is the par-3, 162-yard 11th," said tournament committee chair Francisco "Toto" Bautista yesterday. "And on behalf of the organizing committee headed by chair Jerome Buhion, I would like to thank Toyota Philippines through vice president Danny Isla for graciously donating the prize."

Interested participants may call 807-56-89 and 807-73-74 for more details.

Thirteen other companies and individuals are sponsoring the event for the benefit of 375 families in five Negros Occidental upland sitios and barangays.

These are Pro Synergy of the Professional Group, Fred and Glo Morales, Verzatek Inc., Gem Core Industrial Resources, BHA Group Inc., Caterpro Enterprises Inc., Pilipinas Shell, Rommel and Imelda Navarro, Bonnie Claudio Insurance and Real Estate Services, God Is Love Kawan, Mae Llanto, Cymbie Valdez and Panser and Monette Tumangan.

The Building Families Community Foundation, in cooperation with the Bread from Heaven Christian Fellowship, is organizing the 18-hole tournament.

"Beneficiaries are the residents of the sitios of Hiyang-hiyang and Guinaturan in Patag, Silay City and barangays Manghanoy and Cambagting in Là Castellana and Sta. Fe in Bacolod City," Buhion said.

San Pablo hosts triathlon Sunday

CASUAL and new triathletes from around the country will clash for honors in the 2002 National Age-Group Triathlon (NAGT) in San Pablo City, Laguna on April 7.

Organized by ret Col. Jose Jamora Jr. and the San Pablo Mantas, the TRAP-sanctioned event will be composed of a Sprint Distance 25.8 kilometer (800 meter swim-20 km bike-5 km run) course with the BJ Country Club as the main venue.

National biathlon coach and former national champion Abelardo "Abet" Alon-Alon is the event's race director.

Entry forms are now available at the TRAP office at Room 202, Bldg Alpha, Philsports Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, and at the BJ Country Club in San Pablo City, Laguna.

The event, sponsored by the Provincial Government of Laguna, the San Pablo Mantas, Agua Montana, Informatics Computer Institute, SPEEDO, BJ Country Club, the Philippine Sports Commission, POC and ATR Wines & Spirits, will award the top three male and top three female winners of the following categories: 19-below, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, and 50-above.

The top 20 overall finishers will gain points that will be counted for the entire series, ranging from 25 to 100 points.

The first event of the 2002 NAGT series was held in Davao City on March 10, which was organized by Davao sportsman Vic Sai and attracted a location record 46 participants. Current male and female leaders of the series are Davao City's Noel Garciano and Cebu's Ripples Rafanan.

Call 0919-8623848, 02-8477090, 0917-9116842, 09174217913 and 0916-4494789 for other details.

Batangas Grand Prix set April 6-7

IT will be a big festival of high speed racing action this weekend as the 2002 Casino Filipino Grand Prix season kicks off April 6-7 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Much of the focus will be on the Formula Toyora Cup Series where top drivers are to be featured in the event sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phils., MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro and Kilton Motors Corp.

Shell Racing's Mandy Borja and Cebuano teammate Joel Retuya hope to fill in the shoes of last year's champion Roland Hermoso in the Formula Toyota Cup Series.

Epect the tough challenge from Carlos Pastor of TEC/Shell, privateer Victor Yap and Kart-1 Racing's Kirk Arambulo.

High-powered motorcycles also take centerstage in the Shell Advance Super Bikes Series where the coutnry's best riders led by multi-titled Jolet Jao of Shell Advance YRS will be gunning for his fourth crown against equally tough rivals Toti Alberto of Castrol-Ducati, privateers Rey Relativo, Road Chua, JD Andrews, lone female rider Wacky del Rosario and the dreaded Mendoza brothers–Bernard and Benjo–of Tom's-Yamaha.

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Ready Aim Fire 2. Cycloneferros 3. Flashy Girl
Race 2—1. Epic Energy 2. Aaron's Hope 3. Aim for Gold
Race 3—1. Thunder Speed 2. Ocean Friend 3. Perry's Will
Race 4—1. King Cobra 2. Stradivarius 3. Far Out 4. Rainmaker
Race 5—1. Real Material 2. Princely Native 3. Romario
Race 6—1. Roulette Queen 2. Bright Task 3. Earth Angel 4. Be Ready
Race 7—1. Countess Diana 2. James Joy 3. En Carta 4. Dixie Dancer
Race 8—1. Top Secret 2. Ringer Kid 3. Nag-iisang Ikaw
Race 9—1. Profit Margin 2. Perfect Lyza 3. Beatitudes 4. Waw 5. Ocean Menary 6. Ground Fighter

MONUMENTAL VICTORY

LBC Express: ₱200M for MBA

LOYZAGA

THE METROPOLITAN Basketball Association scored a monumental victory off the hardcourt yesterday when it clinched a P200-million advertising contract with LBC Express.

The stunning contract from the country's leading All-Filipino courier firm came just two days before the MBA kicks off its fifth season tomorrow in Cebu City.

Financial-wise, the deal virtually assured the league of fine sailing up to its first decade as the contract would last five years.

LBC Express president Malou Olan signed the agreement with MBA Commissioner Joaquin "Chito" Loyzaga and league business development director Ramon Tuason.

The benchmark deal came on the heels of other several advertising contracts with The Professional Group, Cebuana Lhuillier, Osaka and Air Philippines, among others.

"We see the MBA as a very potent advertising tool so that we saw it fit to infuse our resources. We did not hesitate to seize the opportunity because we hope to continue leading the business field through the extra advertising push, which the MBA can surely give LBC," Olan said.

The deal, lasting up to 2007, is separate from LBC's ownership of the Batangas franchise, which will be defending the national championship this year against seven teams.

"This is real investment with sure returns. Our contract offers new venues for advertising, and not just the traditional kind. It allows companies investments of as much as P50-60 million a year, there's also a chance for sponsors to come in for as little as P100,000. We're flexible and we're earning the returns fast," said Tuason, who took charge of the league's business side last year before the MBA went on its own after a four-year partnership with ABS-CBN.

"We welcome these developments as an assurance that the MBA is here to stay for good despite our going independent starting this year. We're like a child learning to walk now and in five years, with support from LBC and other companies believing in our grassroots development program, we will be able to come out strong and grow in a manner that would complement the country's sports development thrusts," Loyzaga said.

Games tomorrow pit Cebuana Lhuillier against comebacking Osaka-Pangasinan at 6 p.m. The Professional Eagles of Davao face Cagayan de Oro Amigos in the first game at 4 p.m.

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña will be represented by Vice Mayor Mike Rama during the simple opening ceremony at the New Cebu City Coliseum.

Completing the league's Southern Conference, aside from Cebuana Lhuillier, The Professional Group and Cagayan De Oro Amigos, are the RCPI Negros Slashers.

Northern Conference teams are the Pampanga stars, Osaka Pangasinan Waves, newcomer Olongapo Volunteers and defending national champion LBC Blades.

Czar of track and field

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ACCORDING to his peers and associates, flamboyant athletics president Go Teng Kong thrives on controversy. But in making the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association succeed where the other NSAs failed, one can only surmise that Go hasn't done badly for himself.

The controversial Go is one of the most active National Sports Association presidents in memory. He is also one of the most criticized and feared. And he is thoroughly straightforward. He once said that once upon a time he was the "black sheep" in the family. However, he mended his ways—God bless him—by turning to sports and extending his doggedness and legendary generosity to various disciplines such as basketball, his first love, and athletics. He is also not a bad chess player.

Recently, his track and field wards, led by small but terrible Eduardo "Vertex" Buenavista, emerged the most successful Philippine team in last year's SEA Games, but Go is not resting on his laurels. The czar of local track and field is busier than ever, preserving the gains made by lining up top world-class events here in May and sending 19 SEAG medal winners to the 46-nation Asian Amateur Athletics Association meet in Sri Lanka in August.

On May 1-4, the Philippines hosts the Milo National Invitational-Gov. Sering Cup at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex featuring tough Chinese and Russian athletes. This will be followed by the third and final leg of the inaugural Asian Amateur Athletics Association Grand Prix on May 26, also at the RMSC, where Asia's cream of the crop will be strutting their wares. The first two legs of the Grand Prix will be staged in Hyderabad, India, on May 18, while the second leg will be on May 21 in Bangkok. "Filipino fans are lucky because they will get the rare opportunity of seeing Asia's very best track and field athletes in the Grand Prix," said Go, adding, "*hindi lamang mga world-rated na atleta ang makikita natin, kundi pati na mga* record-holders."

Besides increasing interest in track and field in the country, Go is hoping that the Grand Prix would boost the chances of his wards to win gold medals in the coming Busan Asian Games. "That's why the Grand Prix is important. It will gauge our chances in the Asiad."

The Grand Prix features only the top athletes in the Asian Region with host Philippines entitled to field two entries in each of the 15 events. Up for grabs are $2,000 for the winner, $1,000 for the runner-up and $500 for the third placer in each event.

Buenavista, 24-year-old father to a one-year-old baby boy, is the country's best bet in the Grand Prix and the Busan Games. A native of South Cotabato, Buenavista broke the SEA Games record in wining the 3,000-meter steeplechase and topping the 5,000m run. Buenavista, who won the recent Adidas King of the Road marathon, is now preparing for the Busan Asiad at the PSC camp in Baguio City together with the other members of the national training pool.

SPORTSWATCH

Aussies enter Mitsubishi netfest semis

AUSTRALIANS Robert Smeets and Christopher Guccione downed separate rivals yesterday to reach the boys' singles semifinals of the 13th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Smeets, who ousted No. 2 Michel Koning of the Netherlands in the first round, defeated Hui Cheuk-wai of Hong Kong, 7-5, 6-2, to advance against Liu Tai-wei of Chinese Taipei. The fourth-ranked and world No. 49 Liu defeated Fil-American Ruben Gonzales, 7-5, 6-1. Guccione, who eliminated No. 6 Bas Van Der Valk of the Netherlands in the second round, scored a 7-6 (6), 6-0 victory over Craig Evans of Great Britain. Guccione, ranked No. 127 in the world, will meet third seed Chris Kwon of USA, who beat Sratha Saengsuwarn of Thailand, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. In the girls' singles division, defending champion and top seed Hsieh Su-wei of Chinese Taipei breezed past No. 6 Isha Lakhani of India, 6-1, 6-2, to advance in the semifinals against fourth seed Elise Tamaela of the Netherlands, who outclassed Sanaa Bhambri of India, 6-0, 6-2.

RP-Kuwait Davis Cup tie on

ARCILLA

THE PHILIPPINES tries to remain in Group 2 of the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone when it faces Kuwait in the playoff starting at 1 p.m. today at the Philippine Columbian Association covered courts. The Philippines' No. 1 Johnny Arcilla faces Kuwait No. 2 Mosaad Al-Jazzaf in the first singles match and No. 2 Adelo Abadia meets Mohammad Al-Ghareeb in the second singles. Arcilla and Abadia were drawn to play in the doubles on Saturday against Husain Al-Ashwak and Ghareeb. On Sunday, Arcilla will meet Ghareeb in the first singles and Abadia will tackle Al-Jazzaf in the second singles. The two other players in the RP team are Joseph Victorino and Michael Mora III while Kuwait has Mohammad Al-Foudari.

Pasay derby stages 60 fights

SOME 30 Metro Manila cockers and gamefowl breeders converge at Pasay City Cockpit at 7 tonight, via the special 4-cock derby bannering 60 fights. Derby sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Hammer Dewormer. Derby host is the Lans Group to be assisted by pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. At stake is P300,000 prize while entry fee is P10,000. Call 816-6750, 843-1890 or 843-1746 for more details. Also slated at PCC is a 4-cock derby on April 12 with Abo Centeno as host. The 5th PCCA 4-cock derby is on April 19.

Famous Firefly Group solo champion

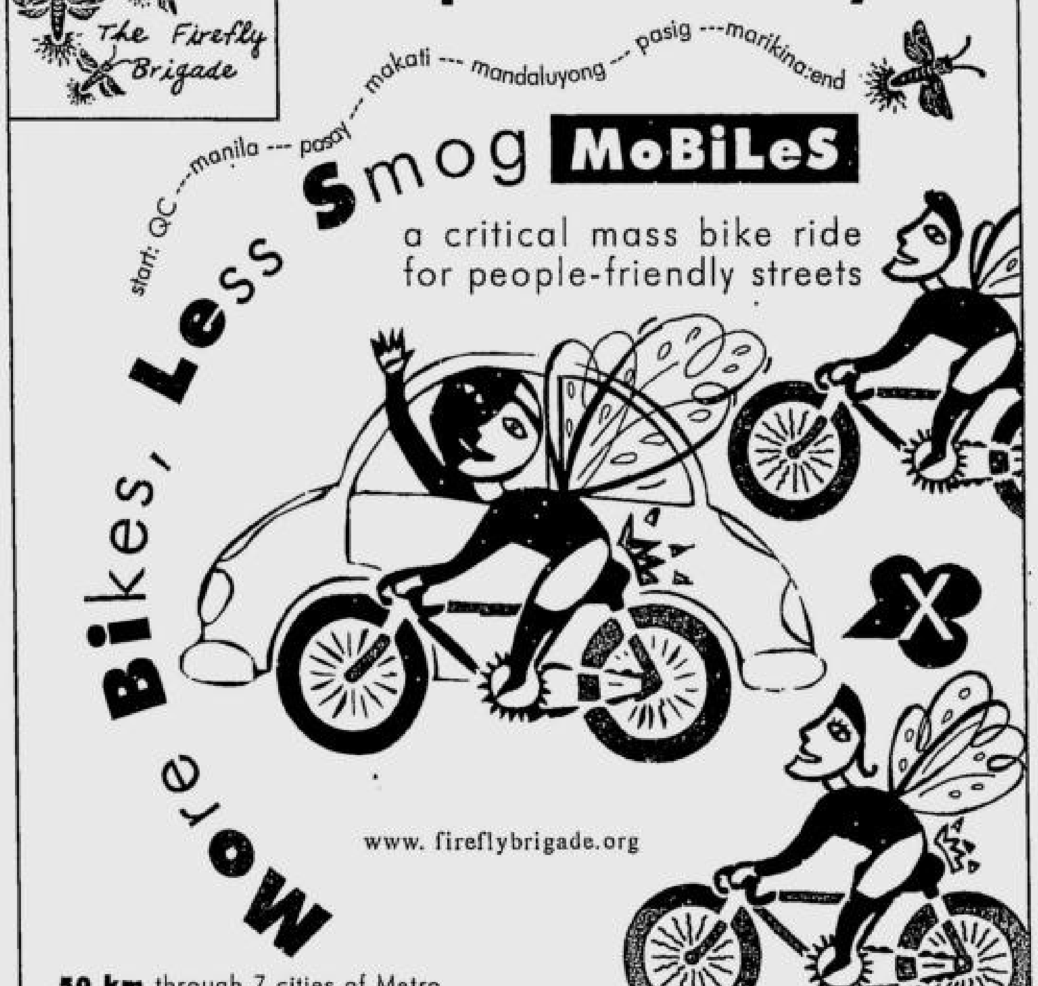
SHOWING the deadly form of old, Firefly Thunderbird 13 of the famous Firefly Group made mincemeat of the opposition late Wednesday night by scoring six points to emerge emerge solo champion of the NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. Four other entries wound up second with five points each in this blockbuster derby hosted by Boy Primallon and Kano Daniel. These were Binangonan SMV of former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, RT 114 Mapalad II of Alex Escalona, RT 114 Mapalad I of Edgar Santos and Ruel Ricafort and R&B Farm II of Rep. Clause Bautista and Boyboy Roa. Finishing close behind with 4-1/2 points were Mulawin Argem Coliseum of Frank Berin and Rep. Rudy Albano and Liza Galore of Eddie and Bomboy Araneta. Farther back with four points apiece were Firefly Thunderbird 8, first-day leader Sarangani, Mulawin and BL Laura of Boy Lechon and Louie Cua. Meanwhile, another explosive NCA 7-Cock Derby will be held on April 15-17 to be hosted by the Boyet Joson Group, Frank Berin and Rudy Albano.

Nene, Danding lead cast at Big Dome

COJUANGCO

THE COUNTRY'S leading and most respected cockers will take part in today's "Four-Cock Derby For-A-Cause" hosted by Mayor Eddie Alarilla at the Araneta Coliseum. Aimed at raising funds for the scholars of the Mariano Alarilla Foundation, participating in the star-studded derby are Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, James Chiongbian, former Gov. Ito Ynares, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Pampanga's Jun and Rudy Jingco, former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, recent World Slasher champion Dicky Lim, Mario Villamor, Madiambayan brothers, Alex and Gerry Escalona, Boy Lechon and RQP, Gerry Fevidal, Louie Cua, former Mayors Jessie Viceo and Vic Amante, Iking Araneta, Ram Lopez, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, famous breeder Boy Jiao, Ryoichi Saito, Ruel Ricafort, Manny Co, Alan Tan, John Capinpin, Frank Berin and Rep. Rudy Albano. Also in the fold are Patrick Puno, Boyet Joson, Dennis Roldan, Ruel Feliciano and Sons, Boy Velez, Johnny Jalandoni, Ed Ledesma, Boy Nilo Lizares, Ramon Guanzon, Felix Trebol, Mayor Vic Amante, Blandie Tolentino, Pol Estrellado, Boy Primallon, Kano Daniel, Arthur Uy and Jung-Jung Morales.

tour of the fireflies 2002
21 april • earthday eve


The Firefly Brigade
start: QC --- manila --- pasay --- makati --- mandaluyong --- pasig --- marikina:end
More Bikes, Less Smog
MoBiLeS
a critical mass bike ride
for people-friendly streets
www. fireflybrigade.org

50 km through 7 cities of Metro Manila. Ride starts at **UP Diliman** and ends at the **Marikina Riverbanks Center**.
registration starts at **5.30 am** at the **UP Diliman Old Golf Course** (near College of MassCom, across the oblation, north side)
Ride begins at **7.00 am** and will end about **12 nn.**

special prizes to be given away for **most creative costumes** and **best decorated bikes!**
so come in your earthday best!

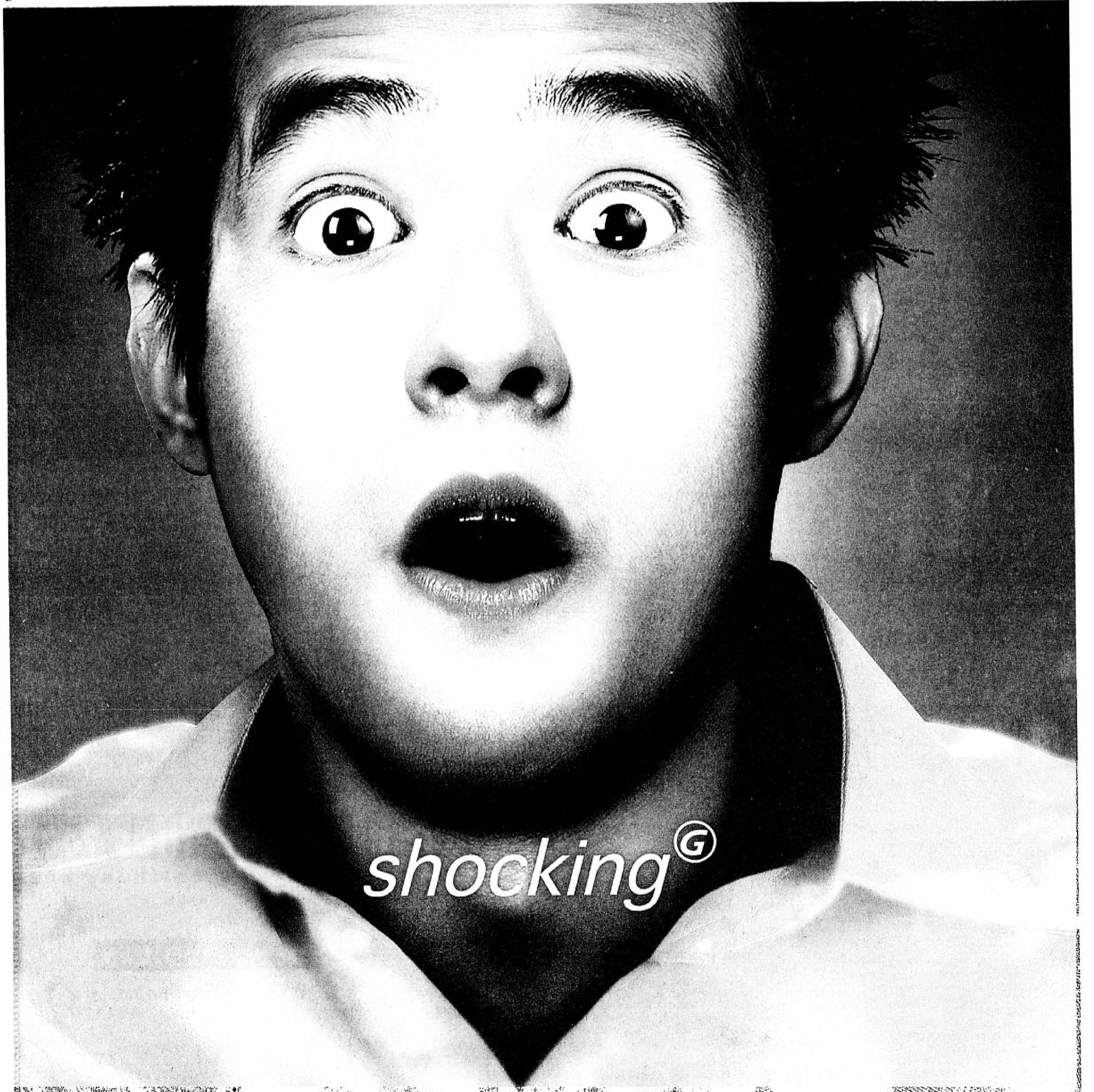
registration fee is **P 50**

when was the last time you saw fireflies in the city?

The fireflies have all fled because of air pollution. All of us, cyclists, walkers, runners, pedestrians, commuters, even those of us who ride cars, all of us who live and work and raise families in the city are in danger of suffering the same fate as pollution remains unabated due to discharges from motor vehicles and factories.

We are also in danger of disappearing like the fireflies, but we can choose to fight for clean air and bring the fireflies back.

where to register: (register by april 7 if you want to order tour jerseys or t-shirts. deadline for registration without jersey/t-shirt orders is April 17). **BIKESHOPS:** the bike room (cartimar) • joven (marikina: amang rodriguez cor. marcos hi-way) • roosevelt (roosevelt near cor. baler) • extreme (timog cor. panay) • bicycle works (cubao, beside isetann) • bisikleta atbp (junction, san mateo - batasan rd.) • **CRAVINGS restaurants and cafes:** katipunan ave. • 3/L robinson's place ermita • 5/L shangri-la plaza mall • wilson st., greenhills • 3/L festival mall alabang • 3/L robinson's galleria • asturias st., manila • registration forms available at **THE BODYSHOP stores:** podium, ortigas • alabang towncenter • glorietta 2 • SM south mall • SM megamall bldg B • SM north EDSA • SM manila • SM fairview • SM sucat • robinson's galleria • robinson's place ermita • robinson's pasig • robinson's novaliches • shangri-la mall • festival supermall • sta lucia mall • rockwell powerplant • ali mall • registration forms available at the ff **BRATPACK outlets:** SM manila • SM southmall • SM north EDSA • robinson's place ermita • robinson's galleria • registration forms also available at **Bantay Kalikasan, ABS CBN Foundation**



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HANDYPHONE

METRO

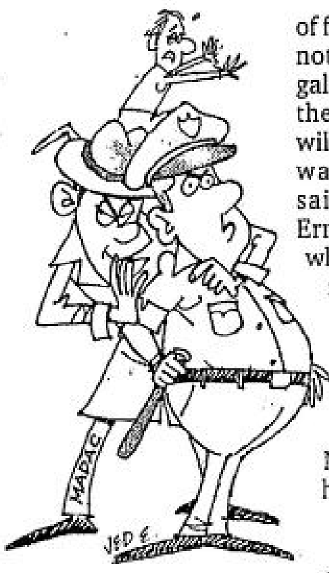
Editor Louie C. Camino

▨ **Lina niece falls prey to hijackers** /A26
▨ **Bare Eye: What a difference a day and a man make** /A26
▨ **QC to build 520 classrooms** /A28
▨ **Pasig River yields young girl's body** /A28
▨ **Woman deep in debt kidnaps herself and child** /A26

'DPAs' to help cops vs drugs

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MAKATI local government has deputized 74 men to act as deep penetrating agents in its effort to curb the growing drug problem in the city.



"This is our way of formally serving notice to the illegal drug traders in the city that they will not have their way in Makati," said Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, who will head the newly formed Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council (Madac).

"We in Makati are not hypocrites," he added. "We admit to having a drug problem and we recognize that problem. This is not only a problem that besets Makati, but also other urban centers in Metro Manila, and even the world."

The "agents" will form the core of Madac, and will assist city police in going after drug users and pushers.

"These agents would be *balut* vendors, watch-your-car boys, who will penetrate the illegal drug trade and act as our informers," he said. "But they would be full-time personnel."

They will also act as intelligence officers who will identify areas where there is rampant use of illegal drugs, according to Insp. Gary Reyes, chief of the Makati Police Drug Enforcement Unit.

Madac will divide the deputized officers into six clusters that will assist police in drug-buy-bust operations in the city's two districts, according to the executive order by Mayor Jejomar Binay.

'DPAS' TO HELP/ A28

WAZZZZUP ?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8th day St. Francis Sq. Ortigas Ctr.	SPIRIT OF '67	DIVAS APR.6 ☎634.7696/98
BUMA 9995 Kamagong St. Makati	SHADOW COOL CHANGE	☎896.1939
Brgy. Almanza, Las Piñas	MR.ROXY PRYZM	BARBIES CRADLE APR. 23 ☎801.7644
	SWEETBLOOD PHYRIGIAN / KOOLJACKS	BARBIES CRADLE APR. 9 525.1474/525.4269
Remedios St. Malate	HEARTBEAT BROWNIE / MUSIC CIRCUIT	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Novaliches Q.C.	STREETLIFE SERSIDE/ZEST	BARBIES CRADLE APR. 16 ☎(049) 511.7268
KAMPO 2088 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	BARBIES CRADLE NEW LEVEL/ D'WIZZ	☎373.5110
TIA MARIA'S Jupiter St., Makati City	D'BUMP SPAGHETTI	MULATTO APR. 25 ☎890.4735
TIA MARIA'S Remedios cor Carolina St	FLIGHT VERSE 2	☎522-0429
FOREST	Q & A BAND	P 250 CONSUMABLE 8:30 PM ☎400-7438/39
OUTSIDE METRO MANILA		
Binan, Laguna	POWER ON STAYTUNED	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎(049) 511.7268
KAMPO Tagaytay	NEXT PAGE ZINGY BAND	☎373.5110
San Fernando, Pampanga	DEGREE	THE DAWN APR. 06 TRUE FAITH APR 20 ☎(045)961.3360

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Evelyn Mangubat winner of ₱50,000
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Jonalyn Ciudad winner of ₱100,000
Criselda Guiyab winner of ₱50,000
Jacob Estangki winner of ₱50,000
Jay Persigas winner of ₱50,000
Mario Mendoza, Jr. winner of ₱50,000
Raymond Benipayo winner of ₱50,000
Marisa Rebullos winner of ₱200,000

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Woman deep in debt kidnaps self, child

By TJ Burgonio

BUSINESSWOMAN Olivia Belano was arrested for faking her own abduction, police yesterday said.

Charges will be filed against Belano for falsely reporting to her family that she and her 2-year-old daughter had been kidnapped. Police said the woman faked her kidnapping to raise money to pay off some debts.

Members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group spotted Belano and her daughter Chelsea at a bus terminal in Calamba, Laguna, on Wednesday night after a two-day search.

She and her daughter were taken to the police office in Region 4.

Belano will be charged with perjury for deceiving her family and the police, CIDG chief Director Nestorio Gualberto announced in a press conference.

"Apparently she had some standing debts, that's why she was forced to do that," he said.

"We are presenting this to media to prove that (some) kidnappings are mere 'kidnap-me' ploys," PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said. He said the filing of charges was meant to teach "would-be perpetrators" a lesson.

"We will file charges against them if they do this," Mendoza stressed.

On Monday, Belano sent a text message on her cellular phone to her husband Cesar, telling him she and her daughter had been abducted at the Sta. Rosa Complex in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. In the same message, she said the supposed kidnappers' were demanding P100,000 in ransom to be delivered through an automated teller machine the next day.

But investigators became convinced that the kidnapping was a hoax when three women surfaced the next day, claiming that Belano owed them a total of P449,783.

The women told police they doubted her tale of kidnapping.

On the day of the supposed pay-off, a conscience-stricken Belano sent another text message to her husband saying she just made up the kidnapping story.

Two days later, she and her daughter took a bus from Bicol to Laguna where police spotted them.

A source said that on Wednesday night, the truck driver and helper of Malou Tolentino, Lina's niece, went to the WPD and positively identified the culprits.

Tolentino's helper and driver told police that the suspects intercepted their truck and took their cargo of 250 sacks of rice somewhere in Kawit, Cavite in February.

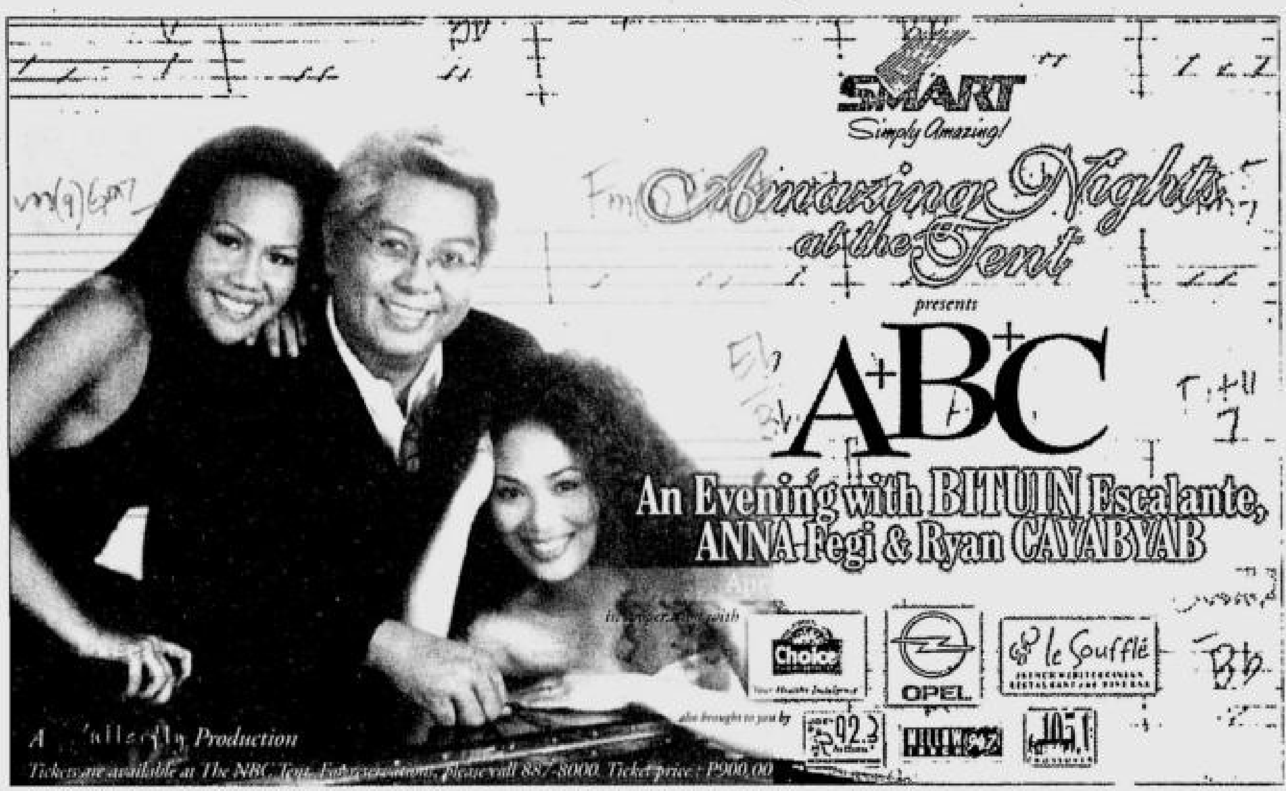
Lina niece falls prey to hijackers

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NIECE of Interior Secretary Joey Lina was among those who fell prey to a group of hijackers who were arrested Tuesday night for stealing a truck and its cargo of 500 sacks of rice.

Lina's niece, who owns a trucking firm, filed a complaint against the suspects for allegedly stealing 250 sacks of rice in February. So far, the owners of three trucking firms have come forward and identified the suspects as the ones who robbed them.

Suspects Jerry T. Belarde, 30, Alejandro T. Villamonte, 35, and Marlon S. Banzuelo, 42, all of Tondo, Manila, were arrested Tuesday after they hijacked a truckload of rice owned by the Calumbahin Rice Center in Las Piñas, said Chief Insp. Jimmy A. Tiu, Western Police District Theft and Robbery Section chief. Police recovered a .45-caliber pistol from Belarde, Tiu said.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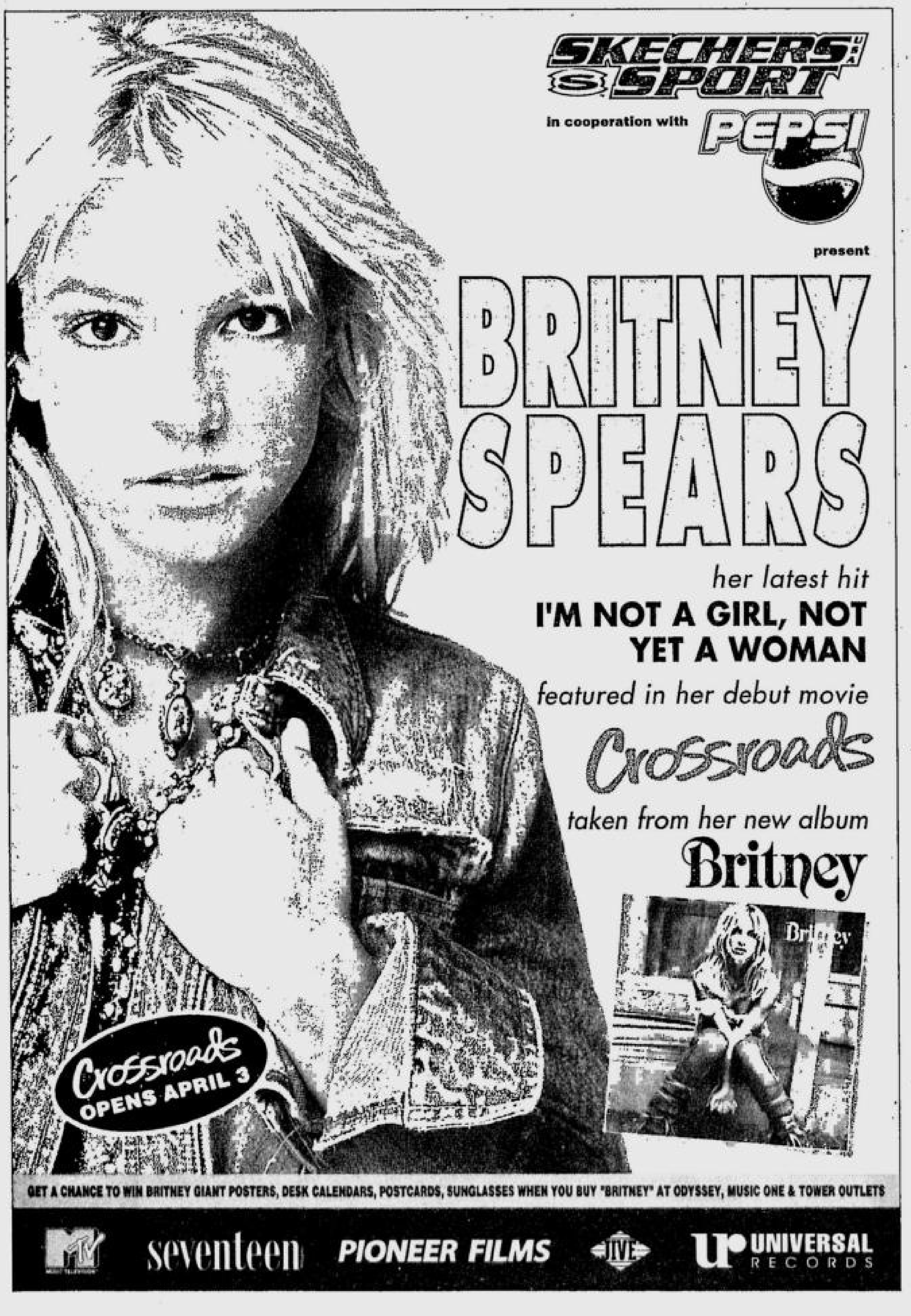
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What a difference a day and a man make

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(SALUTE: One avid Rico Yan fan wondered out loud if the late actor's burial yesterday was, in any way, as massive, monumental as Ninoy's Aquino's funeral. Not really, she was told. However, subsequent revelations of the greatness Rico took to his grave clearly bared that we all have lost somebody who could have been a truly great leader. Testimonials revealed how Rico was slowly but surely inching toward a career that, yes, could have turned him into a Pinoy version of John F. Kennedy. Or even greater. We've successively lost two national artists, Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio, and we indeed felt poorer. Rico Yan's untimely passing has deprived us of somebody this country badly needs. We also have to condole with ourselves).

* * *

THE calendar, no matter how old, cannot be expected to lie.

But in order to resolve the issue on the exact date when Flash Elorde wrested the world junior lightweight boxing title from Harold Gomes at the Araneta Coliseum, a concerned reader wrote in and swore it was an ordinary school day.

It could not have been a Saturday, as had been suggested, wrote Diosdado V. Calonge of 3rd Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City.

"I recall that the day after that historic event happened, our school campus at the Capitol City College (now Trinity College), where I was a first year high school student then, was abuzz with the news of that historic triumph," explained Mr. Calonge.

It was indeed a Wednesday when Elorde did the whole nation proud.

This was confirmed by my dear friend Mar Maralit, connoisseur of habits, herbs, wine and exotic food, from Lipa City.

He said he attended the fight straight from office with his brother, and they came in their stiff, starchy *de hilo* attire, then the required wear in formal affairs.

To his dismay, Mar recalled, all the other gentlemen at ringside wore light, easy banlon T-shirts, which were extremely popular during that period.

* * *

But why the big fuss in the first place?

The big, incredible, unforgettable, shining truth is that Elorde, with that great triumph, started a long reign that was never to be equaled hereabouts.

They could have done it on a Sunday or a Monday, and it would have not made any difference.

Lope Sarreal Jr., Flash Elorde's brod-in-law, said the Aranetas, who promoted the big championship, agreed to stage the fight on a mid-week because the patriarch of the clan, Don Amado, believed in the drawing power of paydays.

March 16, 1960, although a Wednesday, was the day immediately after payday, when everybody was ready and willing to spend.

Anyway, here, not to join the debate, but to confirm Elorde's greatness, is Lamberto dela Cruz who sent his comments using the stationery of the family-owned Marina Hills Golf and Country Club, located along McArthur Highway, Mamatitang, Mabalacat, Pampanga.

You're right, he says, during Elorde's seven-year reign, everybody wanted to be like him. "His inflicting influence inspired me to shift to a southpaw, the conversion being easier for me, an ambidexter," he says.

* * *

Mr. De la Cruz swears he never missed any of Elorde's bouts, either live or via screen showings.

They happened to own a house along Herran (now Pedro Gil) corner Dakota, and it was very convenient for them to buy tickets at Laura's Gift Shop in Ermita.

He says he would occasionally see Elorde, deep in training, going out to hear Mass at the nearby parochial church.

"Short of bigotry, Elorde's deep humility, conduct and hospitality affected my formative years," he says. "My room was smothered with shots of him in action. In fact, I tried to emulate his punching style—shadow boxing six rounds and a round of rope work—daily.

But, he continues, here's a piece of sorry news:

"Years ago, I wrote to Laura Elorde to inquire about any chance of acquiring Elorde's historic ring heroics. I am a vintage video and audio addict. I own classic spiels of legendary championships. Unfortunately, I never received any response. During the mid-'80s, IBC 13 aired a fitting tribute to Flash entitled 'Remembering Bay' with Smokin' Joe Cantada annotating. I was taping it when we suddenly had a power interruption.

"It would indeed be a great joy to have these tapes wholly for personal purpose. How can I forget the first-round kayo of Gomes in his first defense? Was it in San Francisco, California? Joey Lopes, Sergio Caprari, Solomon Boysaw, Vicente Rivas, Teruo Kosaka, Love Allotey, Flash Copeland ...I'm sure these are familiar names to you."

* * *

Listen, sir. Much obliged, I called up Jun Sarreal to inquire why replays of Elorde's great fights were not included in the television presentation that honored Da Flash on his last birthday.

Your reporter did this mainly to accommodate the request of Dr. Abelardo A. Atienza, who also wrote in "as one of the millions of fans of the legendary champion Flash Elorde" to say a replay of the March 16, 1960 conquest at the Big Dome would have been very fitting.

Unfortunately, we were informed by Mr. Sarreal that, from his knowledge, there was no film available of that historic match.

Worse, he said he was ruing the fact that the films of most, if not all, of Elorde's great ring outings have been spoiled, no thanks to the weather and the years.

Much of the bygone greatness of this man will remain only a memory.

They sure will be golden.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, April 5, 2002
Octave of Easter

1st Reading:	Acts 4:1-12
Gospel:	**Jn 21:1-14**

Jesus revealed himself to the disciples by the Lake of Tiberias. He appeared to them in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas who was called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Gallee, the sons of Zebedee and two other disciples were together; and Simon Peter said to them, "I'm going fishing." They replied, "We will come with you" and they went out and got into the boat. But they caught nothing that night.

When day had already broken, Jesus was standing on the shore, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus called them, "Children, have you anything to eat?" They answered, "Nothing." Then he said to them, "Throw the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they had lowered the net, they were not able to pull it in because of the great number of fish.

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" At these words, "It's the Lord," Simon Peter put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and jumped into the water. The other disciples came in the boat dragging the net full of fish; they were not far from land, about a hundred meters.

When they landed, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you've just caught." So Simon Peter climbed into the boat and pulled the net to shore. It was full of big fish—one hundred and fifty-three—but, in spite of this, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast," and not one of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" for they knew it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and he did the same with the fish.

This was the third time that Jesus revealed himself to his disciples after rising from the dead.

Commentary

These enigmatic stories! If only Peter and John were still around to answer all our questions! All the appearance stories have this element of not recognizing Jesus at first, and then a moment of recognition and faith: "It is the Lord!" Today's meal reminds us of the feeding of the 5000 and the Eucharist. It also recalls the miraculous catch of fishes when Jesus promised them they would be missionaries and "catch" people. They are learning to recognize that Jesus, now the risen Lord, is still present with us in the fiber of daily life.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missiona–ries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (JUSTIFYING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Self-defense—Generally, the burden of proof is upon the prosecution to prove the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt. Having invoked self-defense as a justifying circumstance, however, appellant is deemed to have admitted having killed the victim, and the burden of proof is shifted upon him to establish and prove his claim. To escape liability, he must show the concurrent presence of all the elements of self-defense, namely; (1) unlawful aggression on the part of the victim; (2) reasonable necessity of the means employed to prevent or repel it; and (3) lack of sufficient provocation on the part of the person defending himself. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Ubaldo, G.R. No. 129389, October 17, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

'Ativan' strikes again

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER weeks in hiatus, the Ativan Gang struck again in Intramuros, Manila, stealing P150,000 from a Sudanese tourist who just withdrew the money from a bank.

Victim Ahmed Ismail Ashraf, 36, told police the suspects befriended him right inside the bank.

Ashraf, currently staying at the Legaspi Tower on Roxas Boulevard in Malate, Manila, was drugged and brought to Laguna where he was robbed, said PO2 Rommel Anicete of the Western Police District General Assignment Section.

The victim said he lost $3,000 and his Nokia 8210 cellular phone to the suspects.

Ashraf told police one of the suspects approached him inside the Bank of the Philippine Islands branch in Intramuros around 3:30 p.m. on April 2.

After he withdrew $3,000, Ashraf went out of the bank but was followed by the stranger who offered him a ride. Ashraf said he agreed and they were picked up by a second man who was driving a green Mitsubishi Adventure van, police said.

As Ashraf sat in the back of the van with one of the strangers, one of them offered him a drink and some candy, police said. The Sudanese accepted the soft drink and candy.

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3	CROSS ROAD
4	EVIL WOMAN
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6	ITLOG
7	ICE AGE
8	TIME MACHINE
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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1	TIME MACHINE
2	SNAKE CHARMER
3	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4	E.T.
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	CROSS ROAD
7	ICE AGE
8	BLADE 2
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	ITLOG
11	GOT 2 BELIEVE
12	EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY MANILA
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1	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2	ICE AGE
3	EVIL WOMAN
4	CROSS ROAD
5	BLADE 2
6	E.T.
7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8	ITLOG
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE
11	TIME MACHINE
12	BLADE 2

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1	BLADE 2
2	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3	E.T.
4	ICE AGE
5	CROSS ROAD
6	TIME MACHINE
7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8	ITLOG
9	HARI NG SELDA
10	BLADE 2
11	EVIL WOMAN
12	GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
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1	TIME MACHINE
2	BLADE 2
3	ITLOG
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	E.T.
6	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7	ICE AGE
8	E.T.
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8006880

1	ICE AGE
2	CROSS ROAD
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
4	BLADE 2
5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6	ITLOG
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	E.T.
9	TIME MACHINE
10	EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	D-TOX
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4	E.T.
5	13 GHOSTS
6	GOT 2 BELEIVE
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	ICE AGE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	GOT 2 BELEIVE
2	CLOSED
3	ICE AGE
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6	E.T.
7	CLOSED
8	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	ICE AGE
2	E.T.
3	TIME MACHINE
4	ITLOG
5	CROSS ROAD
6	HARI NG SELDA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294075

1	ICE AGE
2	BLADE 2
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	TIME MACHINE

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ITLOG
3	BLADE 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	TIME MACHINE
2	ICE AGE
3	BLADE 2
4	HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	E.T.
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	D-TOX
5	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6	ICE AGE

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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4 GOLD (DTS)	[illegible]
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CROSS ROAD
6 GOLD (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
8	HARI NG SELDA
9	GOT 2 BELIEVE
10	BANDITS

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6 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE

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3	BLADE 2

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2	BLADE 2
3	ICE AGE
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5	ITLOG

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1	TIME MACHINE
2	ITLOG
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	BLADE 2
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	ICE AGE
7	
8	

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1	E.T.

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3	SENSUAL

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A	TIME MACHINE

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1	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	SNAKE CHARMER
4	RESERVE

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1 (DOLBY)	HARI NG SELDA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
5	EVIL WOMAN
6	ICE AGE
7 (DTS)	E.T
8 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
9 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2

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2	HARI NG SELDA

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1	ITLOG
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3	CROSS ROAD
4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
5	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
7 (DTS)	E.T
8	ICE AGE
9	EVIL WOMAN

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2	EVIL WOMAN
3	ITLOG
4	ICE AGE
5 (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	HARI NG SELDA
7 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
8	E.T

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1 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
2	TIME MACHINE
3	ITLOG
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	ICE AGE

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1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

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2	ITLOG

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2	TIME MACHINE

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2

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2	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	ITLOG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
4	E.T.

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(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	HARI NG SELDA
2 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	E.T.
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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1	HARI NG SELDA
2	BANDITS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DOLBY)	D-TOX
4	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HARI NG SELDA
2	TIME MACHINE
3	ITLOG
4 (DTS)	BLADE 2

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4	ITLOG
5	E.T

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	E.T.
3	TIME MACHINE

Olivarez Los Baños
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1	TIME MACHINE
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

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1	D-TOX
2	EVA
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE

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1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ICE AGE
3	RESERVE

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2 (DTS)	ITLOG

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1	RESERVE

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1	BIBINGKA
2	BANDITS
3	HARI NG SELDA

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1	ICE AGE
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	D-TOX
4	HARI NG SELDA

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1 (DOLBY EX)	ICE AGE
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4	TIME MACHINE

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3	ICE AGE
4	BLADE 2
5	CROSS ROAD
6	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7	HARI NG SELDA
8	JOHN Q
9	EVIL WOMAN
10	ITLOG

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	BLADE 2
2	E.T.
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	CROSS ROAD
6	ICE AGE
7	TIME MACHINE

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1	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2	ICE AGE
3	CROSSROAD
4	E.T.
5	BLADE 2
6	HARI NG SELDA
7	TIME MACHINE
8	EVIL WOMAN

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	E.T.
2	ICE AGE
3	EVIL WOMAN
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	BLADE 2
6	CROSSROAD
7	TIME MACHINE
8	HARI NG SELDA

Imus
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1	BLADE 2
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	ICE AGE
4	TIME MACHINE
5	E.T.
6	EVIL WOMAN

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1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3	JIMMY NEUTRON
4	D-TOX
5	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6	RAT RACE

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	ICE AGE
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
5	EVA
6	E.T.

Star Mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	ICE AGE
2	TIME MACHINE
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	ITLOG
5	CROSS ROAD
6	CROSS ROAD

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8 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

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2 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3 CROSS ROAD
4 EVIL WOMAN
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8 TIME MACHINE
9 HARI NG SELDA
10 GOT 2 BELIEVE

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1 TIME MACHINE
2 SNAKE CHARMER
3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4 E.T.
5 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6 CROSS ROAD
7 ICE AGE
8 BLADE 2
9 HARI NG SELDA
10 ITLOG
11 GOT 2 BELIEVE
12 EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY MANILA
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1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2 ICE AGE
3 EVIL WOMAN
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5 BLADE 2
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7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8 ITLOG
9 HARI NG SELDA
10 GOT 2 BELIEVE
11 TIME MACHINE
12 BLADE 2

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1 BLADE 2
2 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3 E.T.
4 ICE AGE
5 CROSS ROAD
6 TIME MACHINE
7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8 ITLOG
9 HARI NG SELDA
10 BLADE 2
11 EVIL WOMAN
12 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9205452

1 TIME MACHINE
2 BLADE 2
3 ITLOG
4 HARI NG SELDA
5 E.T.
6 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7 ICE AGE
8 E.T.
9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

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1 ICE AGE
2 CROSS ROAD
3 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
4 BLADE 2
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 ITLOG
7 HARI NG SELDA
8 E.T.
9 TIME MACHINE
10 EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY CEBU
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1 D-TOX
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4 E.T.
5 13 GHOSTS
6 GOT 2 BELEIVE
7 HARI NG SELDA
8 ICE AGE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 GOT 2 BELEIVE
2 CLOSED
3 ICE AGE
4 HARI NG SELDA
5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 E.T.
7 CLOSED
8 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

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3 TIME MACHINE
4 ITLOG
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6 HARI NG SELDA

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1 ICE AGE
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3 HARI NG SELDA
4 TIME MACHINE

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1 HARI NG SELDA
2 ITLOG
3 BLADE 2

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1 TIME MACHINE
2 ICE AGE
3 BLADE 2
4 HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY DAVAO
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1 E.T.
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 D-TOX
5 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6 ICE AGE

SM BICUTAN

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SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

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4 NEW
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9 GOT 2 BELIEVE
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6 ICE AGE
7
8

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9 EVIL WOMAN

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3 (DOLBY) TIME MACHINE
4 E.T.

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3 (DTS) E.T.
4 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

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1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 (DOLBY) D-TOX
4 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

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2 TIME MACHINE
3 ITLOG
4 (DTS) BLADE 2

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2 HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS) ICE AGE
4 ITLOG
5 E.T

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2 E.T.
3 TIME MACHINE

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1 TIME MACHINE
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

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1 D-TOX
2 EVA
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE

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1 HARI NG SELDA
2 ICE AGE
3 RESERVE

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1 BIBINGKA
2 BANDITS
3 HARI NG SELDA

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1 ICE AGE
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 D-TOX
4 HARI NG SELDA

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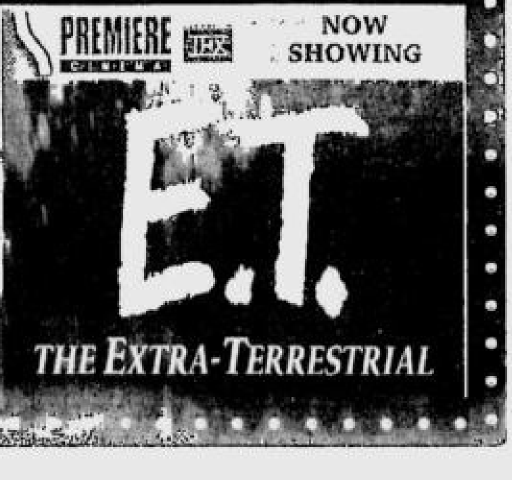

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8 EVIL WOMAN

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1 BLADE 2
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3 ICE AGE
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5 E.T.
6 EVIL WOMAN

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2 ICE AGE
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6 E.T.

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Makati approves cell phone ban near gas stations

By Christian V. Esguerra

FINALLY, a ban on the use of cellular phones near gasoline stations.

The Makati City Council has approved an ordinance prohibiting the use of mobile phones within 30 meters of all gas facilities in the city. The ordinance enjoins the public to switch off their cellular phones whenever they go near gas stations.

Violators will be slapped with a fine of not more than P2,000 or jailed for a maximum of two days. They can also be fined and imprisoned, at the discretion of the court.

The ordinance is expected to make the public aware of the hazard of using mobile phones in gas stations.

Local authorities fear that activated cellular phones can ignite fumes emitted by fuel pumps and trigger a fire. Gas station owners will be required to post billboards informing the public of the new ordinance.

Pasig River yields young girl's body

WHO is she?

The body of a young girl, believed to be a drowning victim, was found floating in the Pasig River late Wednesday afternoon. The victim was described as 12 to 13 years, with shoulder-length hair and fair complexion, was wearing blue shorts, a brown T-shirt, and was barefooted, police said.

Barangay officials saw the body floating in the river in Dulo Beata in Pandacan, Manila at about 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Initial investigation showed that the victim had no external injuries. Her body was taken to the Tres Amigos Funeral Parlor in Paco, Manila.

Philip C. Tubeza

City jail inmate kills self

MANILA City Jail inmate Richie Osmeña was not able to celebrate his birthday yesterday. He committed suicide in his cell after quarrelling with his wife on Wednesday.

Osmeña, Alabang, Muntinlupa, hanged himself inside cell 8 of the Manila City Jail after he fought with his wife Rosalinda, said policemen at the Western Police District homicide section.

Osmeña was jailed on robbery charges. His case was still being tried by the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 4, police said.

Before Osmeña killed himself, his wife visited him in jail. But a heated argument erupted between them, police said.

At the height of their fight, Osmeña told his wife "not to sleep because he was going to kill himself," police said, quoting witnesses.

About 8:30 p.m., Rosalinda was awakened after other inmates found Osmeña hanging from the ceiling of his cell, police said.

They brought him to the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival. The body was later taken to a funeral parlor for autopsy to determine if there was foul play, police said. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

'DPAs' ...

From page A25

"We need to face the problem of drugs," Binay said yesterday. "We need to work together."

At least two policemen assigned to the Makati DEU will head each Madac cluster.

But with only 14 members, Reyes admitted the DEU could not provide sufficient police officers to head the operations of the clusters.

Prior to their appointment as DPAs and intelligence officers, the 74 Madac members attended a seminar on anti-drug operations, particularly on the proper handling of evidence. Mercado said they would also undergo drug tests every 30 days.

QC to build 520 classrooms

By Agnes E. Donato

THE QUEZON City government is set to construct at least 520 new classrooms early next year in a bid to accommodate the city's increasing student population.

Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte said the building was part of the city administration's education initiatives aimed at improving in the city's public schools.

Belmonte said the city government's other plans include the institutionalization of pre-school education, purchase of school equipment and provision of technology-based education.

He said funds for these initiatives would come from the city's P14-million Special Education Fund.

"Education is a primary concern of the city government," Belmonte said in a statement. "It is of utmost importance that we embark on programs that will improve not only the level of academic excellence of our students but also give them more access to the highways of global competitiveness and information technology."

He said that under the pre-school education program, the city government intends to provide free pre-school education to at least 20 percent of the city's population of five-year-olds.

Apart from the new classrooms, additional school equipment and supplies will be purchased for students in the city's public schools.

Quezon City has a student population of 350,000, according to city hall.

BELMONTE

Manila councilor wants 'violent' cartoons banned

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA councilor has asked Congress and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to prohibit the showing of violent cartoons during television prime time.

Councilor Isko Moreno said he is alarmed about the exhibition of "morally objectionable cartoons shows that depict violence such as 'Ghost Fighter,' 'Dragon Ball Z' and other related programs."

"It is practically evident that several cartoon characters are being patronized and considered by children as role models," he said.

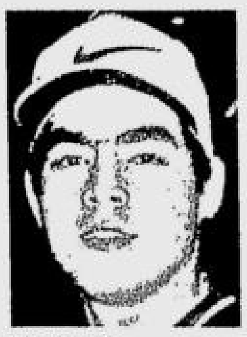
Moreno, a movie actor, said acts of violence being shown in the cartoons "would definitely influence and adversely affect the children's social, psychological and emotional identities."

He said that even if the cartoons were rated "Parental Guidance," there is no assurance that elders are present during early evening viewing hours. At that time, most parents would probably be busy preparing dinner or resting after office work, Moreno said.

He said he is not worried about the teens and young adults who also watch these cartoons, most of which are produced in Japan and are popularly known as anime. He is more concerned with the toddlers and pre-teens who are often left with their nannies or babysitters, he said.

Moreno has filed a resolution calling on the national lawmakers to prohibit the showing of violent cartoons and the imposition of stiffer penalties on would-be violators.

He said the MTRCB should also step in and control the showing of violent cartoons.



MORENO

Abalos addresses other mayors in Hawaii forum

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. flew to Hawaii last Monday to address the inaugural forum of mayors from the Asia-Pacific region about water and environmental concerns.

Abalos, in a pre-departure statement, said he is honored to have been invited to share his views on water and environmental issues.

"It is both an honor and an opportunity to be there in Honolulu for this noble endeavor," his statement said. "I believe that our humble representation can contribute substantially to the discussion while we also learn from the other participants."

The April 3-6 forum was hosted by the city and county of Honolulu, Hawaii and organized by the Asia Pacific Urban Institute.

The mayors from the Asia-Pacific region would draft a common plan of action to improve water and environmental management and services.

The invitation was relayed to Abalos by Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris in behalf of the APUI, an affiliate of the Mayor's Asia-Pacific Environmental Summit. "We are all looking forward to a harmonious, fruitful and enlightening dialogue with you," Abalos said in his reply to Harris.

The Mandaluyong mayor said the Asian Development Bank would support Mandaluyong's participation in the forum.

Abalos was among the city mayors who participated in the ADB-sponsored Asian Mayors' Forum in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1999.

Nelson F. Flores

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Through Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.
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And we're out to prove it can be done.

The Nissan Sentra Exalta GS Superio

Today, the Nissan Sentra Exalta GS Superio will set out to be the first automatic-transmission car to beat the Nissan Marathon record of 30,586 kms set by the Nissan Sentra in 1995. With its revolutionary QG 1.6 liter engine and full set of luxury features, the Superio promises to make this marathon journey an exciting, yet extremely comfortable ride.

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Check out www.gps.ph/nissanpanphil for updates on the Nissan Marathon and get a chance to win prizes online!

NISSAN MARATHON: 4th Philippne Run

April 5 to May 4, 2002

The all new Nissan Exalta Superio is all set to chart a great motoring feat starting April 5, 2002 with the start of its 30 day non-stop journey to prove its worthiness with a car that offers "comfortable, pleasurable and exciting ride blended with a cars luxury and performance features.

In developing a sedan that defies existing boundaries of luxury and performance, Nissan has paid extra attention to details without sacrificing convenience for both the drivers and the passengers" says Arthur Wang, senior vice president for marketing and sales.

Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) will prove the performance durability and luxury of the "All-New Nissan Exalta GS Superio" on major Philippine roads by retracing the route of the second and third Philippine Marathon starting April 5.

Kick-off point for this innovative and pioneering motoring effort is Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City with the Exalta being fired off at high noon after a two-hour media presentation, also at Eastwood.

Over the last two years, The Exalta has become a byword for luxury and innovation in SI cars. But many don't realize the features for a comfortable ride and engine performance, as well as safety factors are matched perfectly in the Exalta.

A team of fully tested marathoners, navigators and long distance drivers have been invited by the NMPI to prove these effective features of the Exalta during marathon run from April 5 to May 4.

Co-captains Wille Ingles and Andy Dysangco, who both were veterans of the two Nissan Marathon runs in 1991 and 1995, would announce the team composition during the press launch on April 5, 2002.

"NMPI is putting a real money and precious time to prove the limits of the Exalta. We're giving the marathon team enough time to prepare, extend ever servicing, give technical support and parts back-up to test the Exalta and report to us other refinements we can make to produce an ever better model," said Vir Diwa, NMPI vice president for marketing and sales.

The plan is for the Exalta to run nonstop for 30 days, with a goal of logging at least 30,600 km in five round through the length and breath of the Philippine archipelago.

Caltex and Goodyear Tires are joining the expedition, two companies are dedicated as Nissan in providing comfort and convenience to car lovers.

Caltex fields its Vortex and Havoline oil for the entire run with help from professionally rained mechanics providing back-up service along the routes of the Caltex Xpress Lube stations along the way.

Goodyear is supporting the team with both dry-weather and wet-weather Eagle Ventura tires from the use of the Exalta for confirmation later of their proper traction control on all road conditions.

While the team sees no constraints on power, tire sizes and weight limits, Ingles said that the team, this early in preparations, will have to come to terms with "weather conditions, crowd control, particularly on its arrival in major cities and close brushed with security problems.

Caltex Havoline Formula and Vortex Road Tested with Nissan Exalta Superio

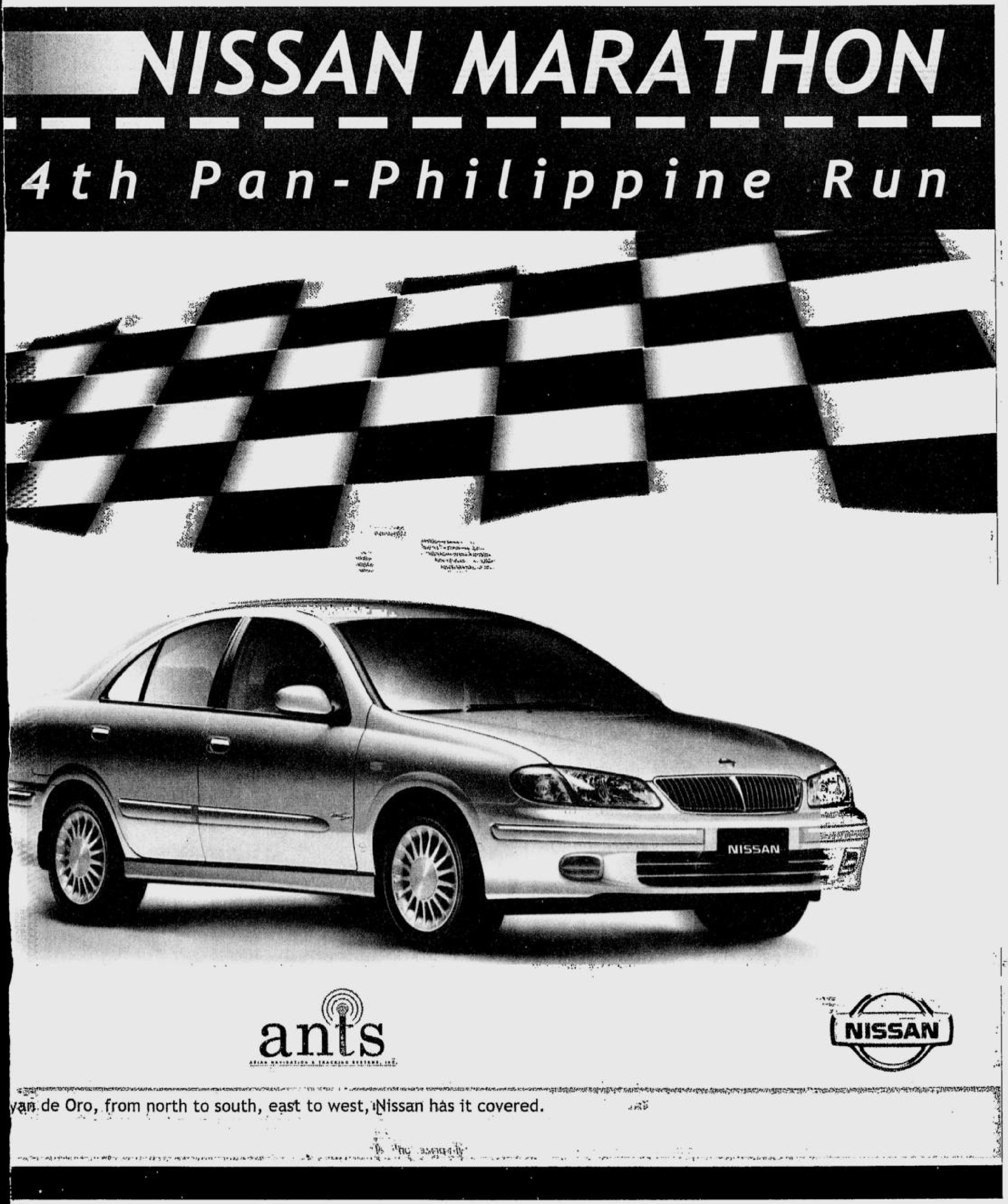
Havoline Formula Motor Oil will try to prove once again that it is one of the leading oils in terms of technology. Powering the Nissan Exalta Superio for a 30,000 km marathon around the Philippines, Havoline will provide the Exalta the best engine protection with its new technology formulation. It has the highest quality training approval in the US today, the API Sl. The oil drain interval will be extended from 5,000 km to 10,000 km providing the point that Havoline Formula will not deteriorate easily even in continuous use in any driving condition.

Of course, Vortex, a high octane fuel with superior detergent additives, will provide the Exalta the response and power its engine hungers for to complete the marathon.

HAVOLINE FORMULA

To date, Havoline has passed the highest APL SL rating in the U.S. this quality improvement translates to higher oxidation stability, lower oil consumption, extended oil drain interval and higher sludge control. It is a highly shear stable, multigrade gasoline engine oil formulated from selected base fluids for use in passenger car and light truck engines requiring API-Sl, SJ or SH performance lubricants under all operating conditions. It is optimized to provide complete engine protection against starting friction, heat stress and engine deposits. Finally, here's an engine oil specially made to protect your car from the stress brought about by city driving-an oil that will keep your car reliable and dependable.

After the marathon, a team of Nissan and Caltex technical people will open the Exalta's engine to see how Havoline Formula stood the test of endurance and see the protection it has promised. It will then be a trilogy of proof-of-performance story for Havoline Formula, Vortex and Nissan Exalta Superio


NISSAN MARATHON
4th Pan-Philippine Run
NISSAN
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yan de Oro, from north to south, east to west, Nissan has it covered.

Aiza in mall show

AIZA Seguerra is set to stage a mall show at 5 p.m. today at the Activity Center of Alabang Town Center.

Aiza will entertain the crowd with songs from her new album, "Pinakamamahal," the followup to the chart-busting "Pagdating ng Panahon," under Vicor Music Corporation.

Her album's carrier single, "Akala Mo," is expected to be another chart-topper.

Other songs included in her latest album are the revivals of old hits "True Love" and "Till There Was You," the sentimental "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan," "Pakisabi na Lang," "Kapag mga Puso ang Nag-usap" and the spiritual track "Ikaw na ang Bahala (Panalangin)."

Alabang Town Center has been the venue of a number of entertainment events such as concerts, mall tours and movie premieres.

Warming. . .

From page A31

The temptation sometimes is to take shortcuts by choosing topics that are known to rate, without an angle that will make the story fresh or significant. Shortcuts in TV are tempting because of the short deadlines.

"You rightly pointed out the difficulty in producing a documentary every month, even when one is focused. The best documentaries take a lot of time to shoot, write, edit and conceptualize.

"So, working in TV could be a recipe for frustration. What keeps us going is the promise of a national audience and the chance to make a wide impact.

"The hope is that the regular exposure to in-depth treatments of subjects will help audiences develop enough appreciation to make local documentary programs not only survive but actually thrive.

"The fact that a program like 'I-Witness' – where audiences are expected to sit through 40 minutes of non-fiction on a single topic – still exists is a credit not just to the producers but especially to Filipino TV viewers.

"They have become more mature than many could have expected. We need TV critics like yourself to keep reminding us of our true role. *Maraming salamat.*"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	CROSS ROAD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HARI NG SELDA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	E.T.
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	HARI NG SELDA
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE
ROBEN	ITLOG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ITLOG
REMAR	HARI NG SELDA
REMAR-2	ITLOG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HARI NG SELDA
B	ITLOG
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-2	ICE AGE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	JOHN Q
CINEMA-3	THE MAJESTIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JIMMY NEUTRON
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-8	BANDITS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-12	ICE AGE
CINEMA-14	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-15	HARI NG SELDA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	CROSS ROAD
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CINEMA-3	BLADE 2
CINEMA-4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-5	THE TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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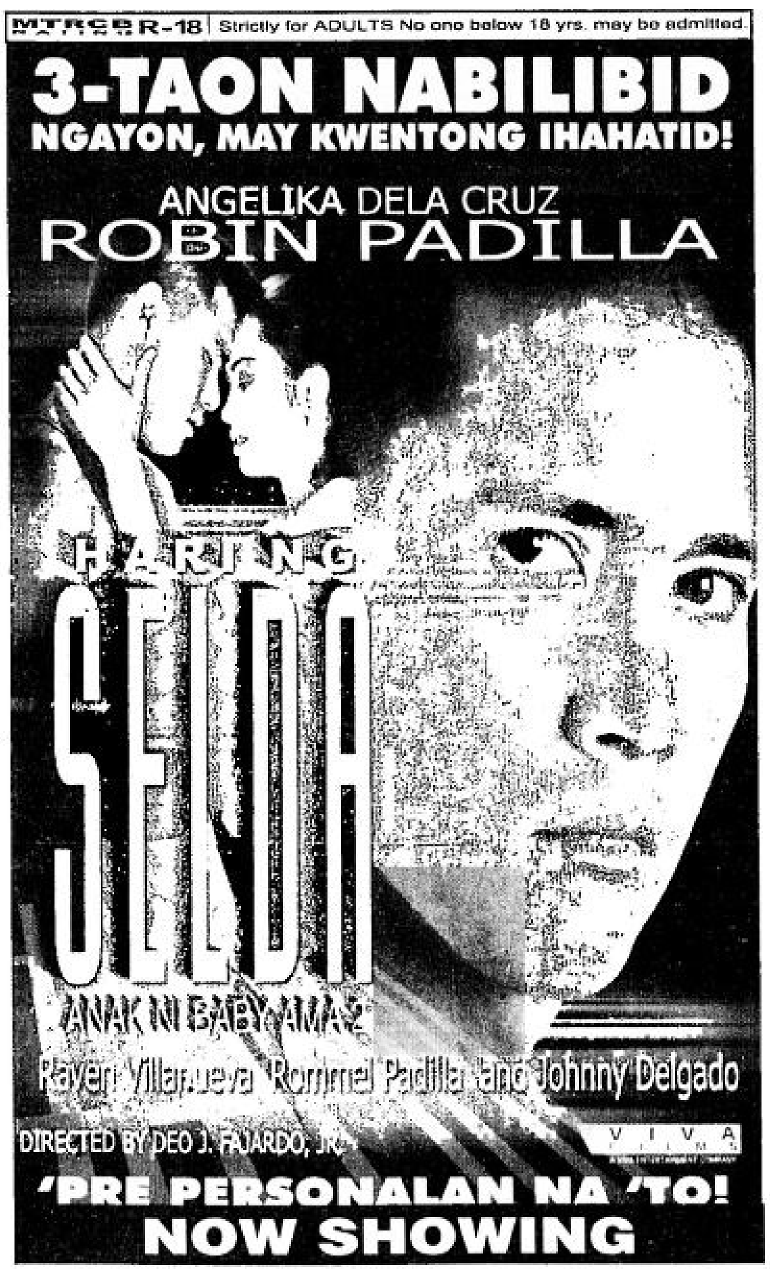
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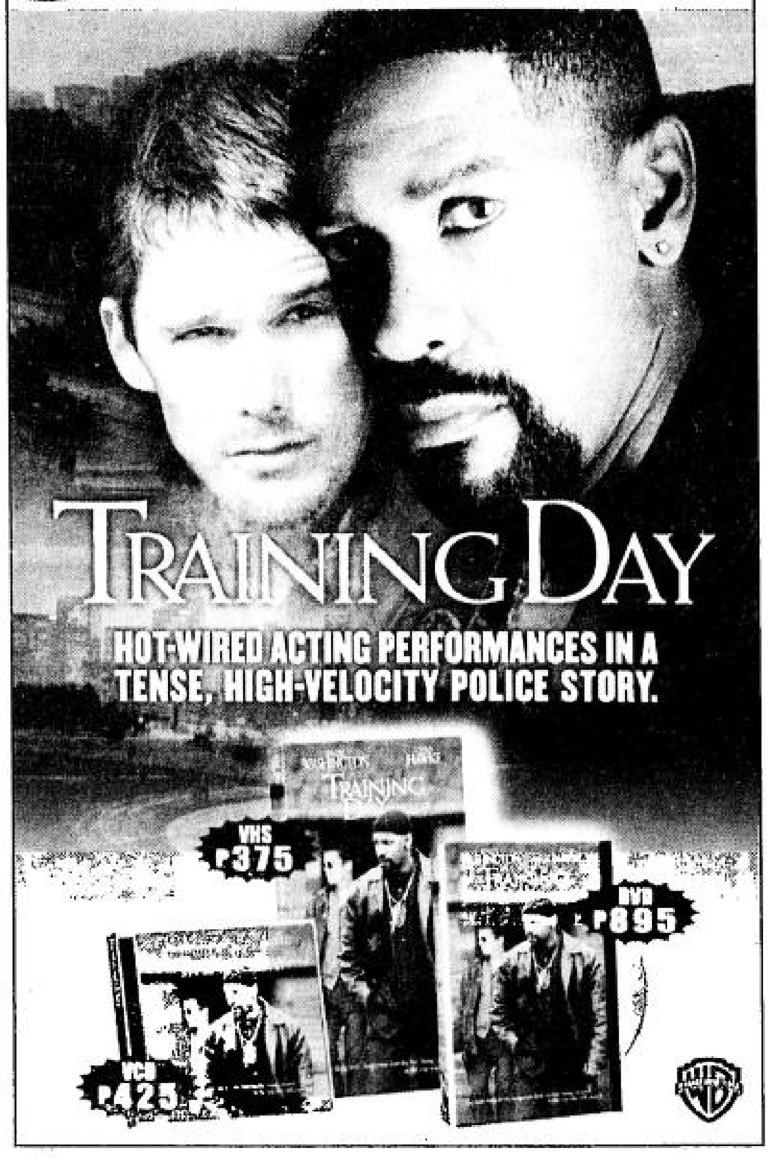
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EVIL WOMAN

Wild, sexy new comedy!

'Evil Woman' NOW SHOWING !

In the tradition of their hit laugh-a-minute movies, **Jason Biggs** of **AMERICAN PIE**, **Jack Black** of **SHALLOW HAL** and **Steve Zahn** of **DR. DOLITTLE 2** join comic forces in the hot and sexy new comedy from Columbia Pictures, EVIL WOMAN.

Darren (Biggs), Wayne (Zahn) and J.D. (Black) have been best of friends since 5th grade. They swore nothing could come between them...un til she came along.

Judith (Amanda Peet) sizzles with sex appeal but is really a cold-hearted and manipulative bitch. She digs her claws into Darren and snatches him from the friendship!

Darren must be rescued at all cost from the clutches of the evil woman, launching a series of side-splitting misadventures. **(Rated R for nudity and sexual humor.)**

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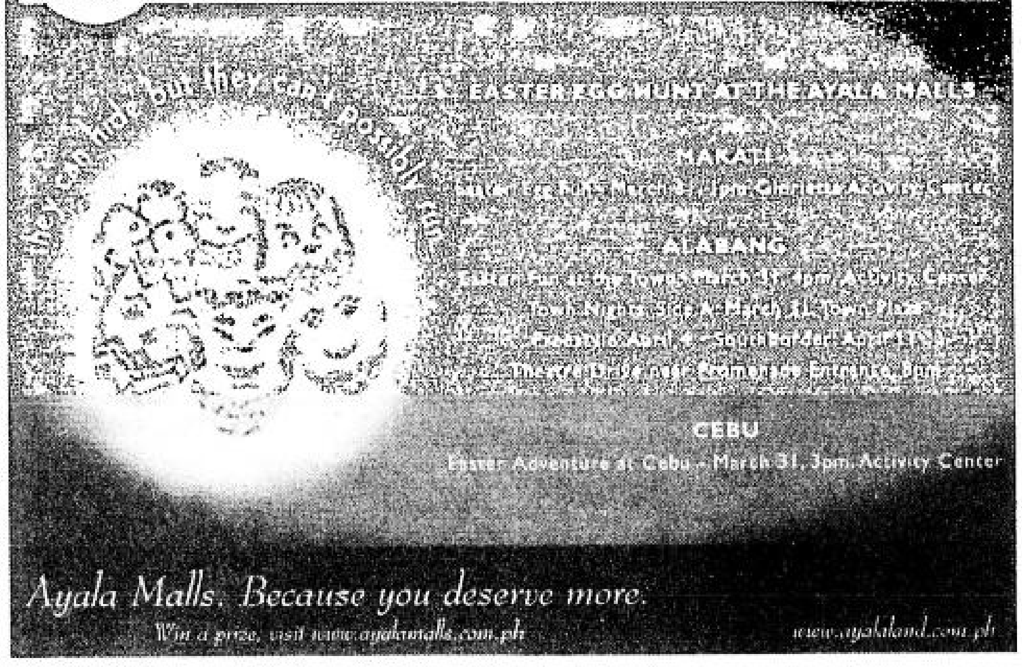
G1 Rated GP Great Price (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)		GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 HARI NG SELDA	1 E.T.	4 EVIL WOMAN	1 GET WELL SOON	1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO THX
2 THE TIME MACHINE	2 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	5 TIME MACHINE	2 ICE AGE	2 BLADE 2
3 BLADE 2	3 BLADE 2 THX GUARANTEED SEATS	6 ICE AGE	3 BLADE 2	3 ICE AGE
4 ICE AGE		7 CROSS ROAD	4 Onstage LANI ON SATGE APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 TIME MACHINE
				5 E.T.

The Ayala Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU


EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE AYALA MALLS
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CROSS ROADS - P 13 11:20, 1:35, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45	E.T. - GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	BLADE 2 - P 13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO - P 13 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30	THE TIME MACHINE - P 13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:35, 9:50	ICE AGE - GP 11:15, 1:00, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8:00, 9:50

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

Warming up the ice age with heart and humor

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE NEW animated feature, "Ice Age," introduces viewers to three anthropomorphic "buddies" who could be in for a long and profitable run on the big screen.

Audiences are responding very favorably to their first movie outing because they come on, not as exhibits in an anthropological museum, but as zany sitcom characters with a peppy love-hate relationship with each other.

Manny is a woolly mammoth, Sid is a sloth, and Diego is a tiger. They are occasionally joined by a fourth character, the mangy, acorn-loving Scrat, a human infant, plus diverse characters like a bunch of really dumb dodo birds (no wonder they became extinct!).

As the story unfolds, Manny is fleeing the onslaught of the ice age, and Sid presents himself as his unwanted traveling companion. Diego and the other saber-toothed tigers in his pack are bent on killing the infant son of an Eskimo hunter, to avenge the death of other tigers.

But Manny ends up protecting the infant, so Diego pretends to be on their side and offers to guide them back to where the baby's father lives. Of course, he's secretly planning to lead them into a tarp, so he and the other tigers can kill them and run off with the baby.

As it turns out, however, the cute and trusting baby, Manny's kind nature and Sid's lighthearted ways eventually transform Diego into a similarly caring creature, and they end up defending the child against the other tigers.

This transformation is depicted rather predictably, but the characters' smartypants characterizations and punchlines keep the movie droll instead of getting weighed down by its stolid good intentions.

The sitcom style *is* rather artificial, but viewers soon warm up to it. Other plus points include some grandly imaginative visualizations of nature's wonders and dangers, and the emotional coming-together of the movie's initially disparate and even inimical characters.

The "dance of the dodos" sequences also provide a sardonically whimsical touch, as the really stupid birds veritably ex terminate themselves with their ridiculous schemes to survive the encroaching ice age.

The film does get too silly and "sitcom-y" in spots, and the plotting grinds to an icebound halt here and there, but on the whole, the movie remains diverting.

The star in this movie is reminiscent of the similarly huge and hairy Snuffleluffugus in "Sesame Street." But Sid and Scrat steal quite a lot of scenes with their amusingly pernsnicketty antics.

We smell a sequel in the works. It should hit the screen—before the next ice age!

Feedback

FROM **Howie G. Severino**, cameraman and host of GMA 7's "Eyewitness:" "Thank you for your thoughtful reflections on the state of TV documentaries. I also want to thank you for the interest you have taken in documentaries and independent films in the past, rare among entertainment writers.

"This is not meant to be a defense or apology for any of the work that TV documentarists have done, but only an extension of the discussion you started. I have often thought about the potential of the documentary medium in television, and you have correctly pointed out some of the possible pitfalls.

"One main conflict pits the high expectations among the well-informed like yourself, and the demands to rate and make money in what is essentially an entertainment medium. By no means should the documentarist surrender his or her seriousness of purpose. But the main challenge—as in all journalism—is 'to make the important interesting.'

"It's a fine line. The danger is when some of us do mistake the simply titillating for the interesting, or the merely popular for what is important.

WARMING /A30

WESLEY SNIPES
BLADE II
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
SHARPER
FASTER
DEADLIER
BLADE II
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
NOW SHOWING!
Vortex
Drumstick
OUTBACK

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	ICE AGE 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
CINEMA 2	BLADE 2 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating)
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NGAYON PELIKULA NA!
ANDREW E. SALBAKUTA BLAKDYAK
ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ MAUI TAYLOR
S2PID LUV
KRISTINE JAKA MICHAEL FLORES
DIRECTED BY AL TANTAY
OPENS APRIL 10!

OPENS APRIL 10!
JUST
WHEN
YOU
THOUGHT
THE
TERROR
WAS
OVER...
MIMIC 2
SKYFILMS
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"Summer Valentine" in April!
MTRCB RATING PG-13
The stars of "Black Hawk Down" and "She's All That" are paired for the first time in this Year's Most Romantic Comedy about Love with a lot of air!
Josh Hartnett
Rachael Leigh Cook
blow dry
DOLBY DIGITAL
IMF
Intermedia
MIRAMAX FILMS
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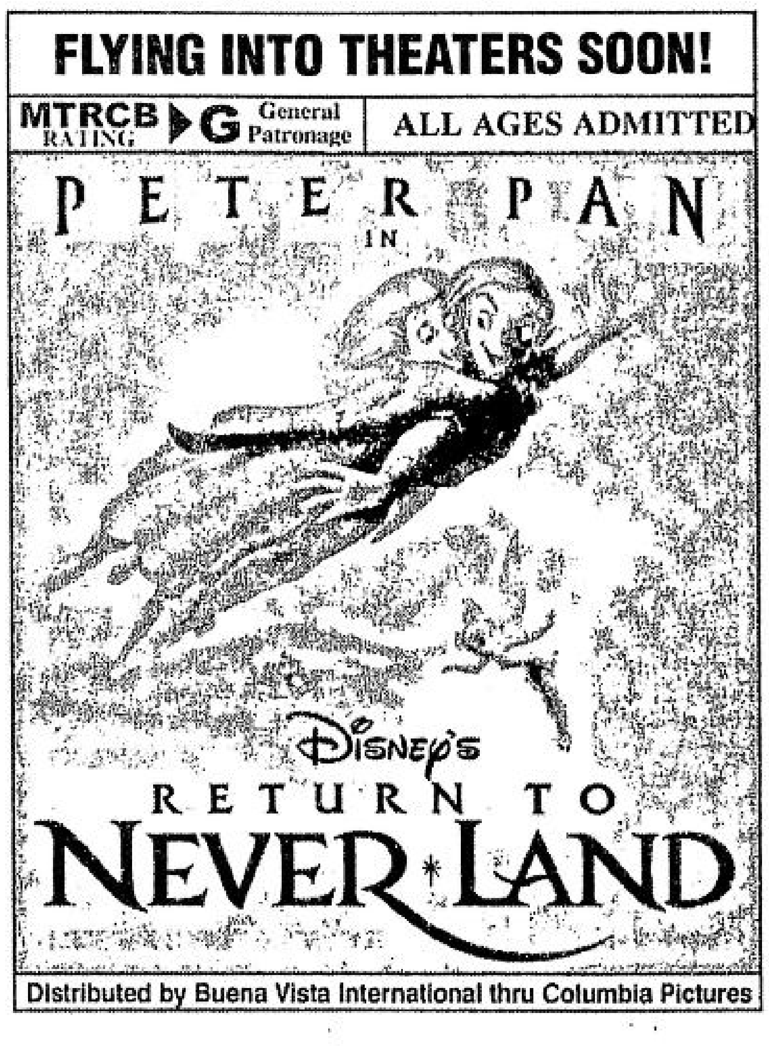
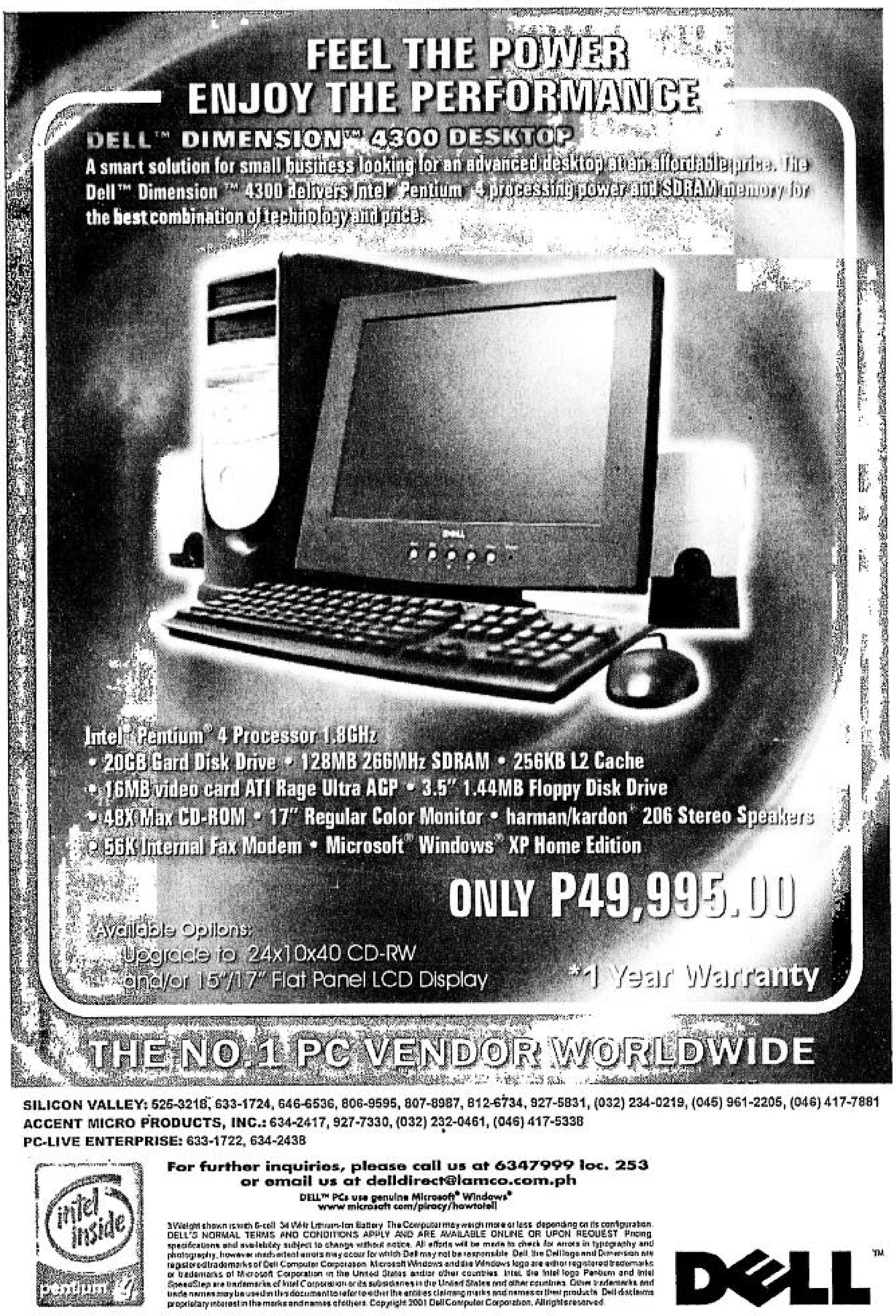

FLYING INTO THEATERS SOON!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
PETER PAN IN
DISNEY'S
RETURN TO NEVER LAND
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures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intel inside pentium 4

DELL™

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

One of life's most embarrassing moments

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

LET'S call it one of life's more embarrassing moments. Last Tuesday, **Josh** and I were set to go on a three-day vacation. We were booked at Shangri-La Mactan and we were already on-board the 11 a.m. Cebu Pacific flight that would take us to Mactan.

Josh who's a pretty seasoned traveler, totally acted up. He was a child possessed, refusing to sit down, crying and practically shaking in fear.

We've gone on long trips to the United States, we've gone to Hong Kong several times and he's ridden even the smaller planes that have taken us to Caticlan and Amanpulo. I have no idea what happened, but since his behavior was preventing us from taking off, I decided it was best for us and the passengers on-board if we just got off.

Allow me to commend and thank Cebu Pacific for being so understanding and a truly child-friendly airline. In particular, thank you to **Dennis Badua** (good looking and very efficient!) who helped off-load our luggage, and who made sure we were able to get an FX Airport transport vehicle to bring us to my mom's office in Makati. Our car was already back in Quezon City and it was practical for us to just be fetched in Makati.

I guess we weren't meant to go to the beach and enjoy Shangri-La's beautiful swimming pool. I was really looking forward to enjoying their excellent shower and have a lingering bath in their tub. There goes our room service breakfast and my moonlit stroll along the shore.

I checked with my friend, Dr. **Aye Nuguid**, a pediatrician regarding Josh's sudden fright attack. He said that it just happens with kids and maybe next time if we really have to take an airplane flight, it would help to give him a mild sedative before boarding.

Next time Josh travels, I'll make sure he flies with his dad!

Many parents I'm sure have shared my experience, that feeling of utter helplessness and frustration. I remember at five years old when I created a major scene at Uni-Mart. I refused to sit on Santa's lap and have my picture taken.

I am also guilty of clamping my mouth shut, wailing like a piglet being slaughtered when some of my rotted baby teeth had to be extracted. It's part of parenting, understanding our kids' needs and going with their flow. But, boy it's tough!

Generous brother

SO MUCH has been said and written about **Rico Yan** in the past few days. When I interviewed his two sisters, **Geraldine** and **Tina**, I got the distinct impression that he was a kind and generous brother, and he was an extremely thoughtful son.

Tina is the youngest in the Yan family's brood of four. She and her husband have relocated to San Francisco. When they were making the big move, despite the fact that he didn't have to, Rico paid for their plane tickets as a good luck gift.

Last Christmas, Rico surprised his parents with a brand new Corolla Altis.

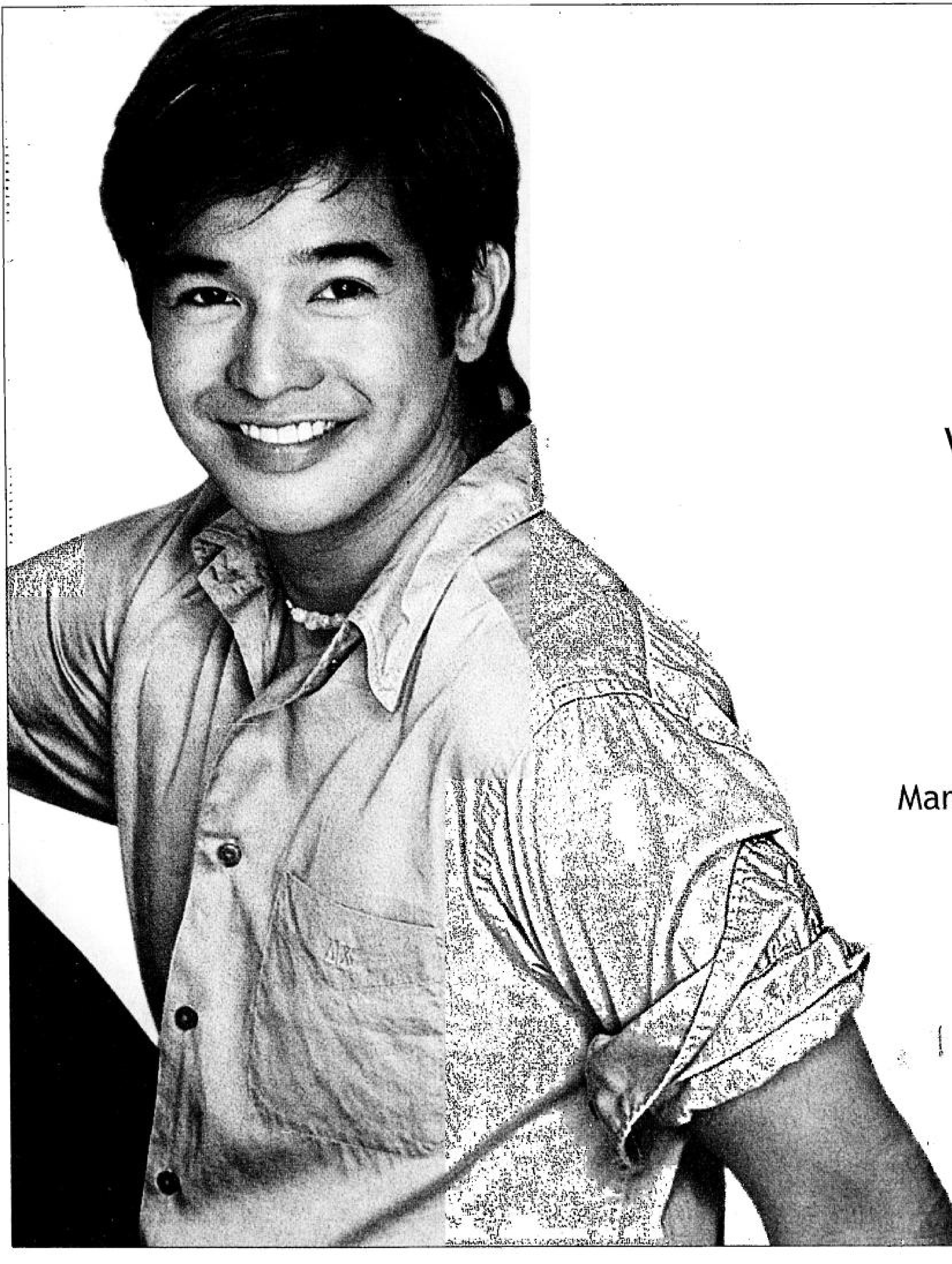
Whenever we'd bump into each other at ABS-CBN, Rico would always ask how I was doing and he'd never run out of compliments, from a unique color combination I was wearing that he appreciated or a flattering hairstyle that he noticed, since Gary of Salon de Manila in Katipunan was our shared hairstylist.

He didn't have to make me feel good about myself, but every Thursday while they taped "Whattamen" and I was taping "Game KNB," bumping into Rico's ready smile in the corridor would always bring some sunshine into my day.

He made me realize that one of the nicest things that could be said about you at the time of your death is how in even a small way, you've managed to be a genuinely nice and compassionate person, and you've made so many around you feel that the world was a better place because there was someone like you in it. That's what ultimately will give meaning to your life.

Let me end this column with two quotes that truly remind me of Rico, from the inspirational book "These Are the Gifts I'd Like To Give To You, A Sourcebook of Joy and Encouragement," edited by **Douglas Pagels**:

> "It was only a glad 'good morning,'
> As he (she) passed along the way,
> But it spread the morning's glory
> Over the livelong day." — Anonymous
>
> "Do not stop with doing necessary kindnesses, the unnecessary ones are of greater importance." — Anonymous


What a man.

What a friend.

Maraming Salamat Rico.

TALK'N TEXT

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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S&P upgrades credit rating of RP

By Elena R. Torrijos

INTERNATIONAL ratings agency Standard & Poor's upgraded the credit outlook on the Philippines to stable from negative yesterday, praising government policies which have kept the budget deficit in control.

In a statement, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that the ratings outlook upgrade "will provide us a very strong platform for further growth this year and the years to come."

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that "the official confirmation of what most people thought that we are in a stable environment is good because it will attract new investors that otherwise would generally stay away unless there is some official confirmation of an (outlook) upgrade."

Buenaventura also noted that the country could achieve an investment grade rating in one to two years if the government shows consistent fiscal discipline.

The S&P move, which does not signal any imminent change in the country's debt rating, follows similar action taken by Moody's exactly two months ago.

Analysts and officials said sovereign spreads should narrow and there would be more investor interest in any upcoming credit issues as a result.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura welcomed the move, saying the immediate effect would be to ignite more interest in the country's global bond issues.

"That's good news," he told Reuters. "I think this affirms what the market was anticipating and what was reflective in our bond prices."

"The official notification of the upgrade will now induce other investors to take interest in Philippine bonds."

S&P said the tighter budget management by the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo had helped set the state for better fiscal and GDP growth performance in coming years.

"The improvement in economic management raises prospects for timely implementation of structural reform, especially in the energy and banking sectors," said credit analyst Joydeep Mukherji.

After years of runaway budget deficits, the government capped the 2001 shortfall at P147 billion, just over the target of P145 billion.

Dileep Shahai, a regional fixed income analyst at HSBC in Hong Kong, said the government could do even better with the 2002 budget deficit target of P130 billion.

"I think they can achieve the fiscal deficit target of P130 billion for this year or even undershoot it through improved debt management and aggressive revenue collection," he said.

"This should act as a momentum drive for the market and

S&P/ B3

Decline in exports slows down to 6.4%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ANNUAL decline in Philippine export earnings slowed further to 6.4 percent in February from 9 percent in January, boosting expectations that a turnaround in exports would fuel a more robust economic growth for the country this year.

The National Statistics Office said exports fell 6.4 percent year-on-year to $2.625 billion from $2.805 billion, the slowest rate of decline in 11 months. February exports were not vastly changed from January's $2.631 billion.

"The weakening of the decline suggests that exports will really recover and that there will be a point this year when export receipts will register a positive growth," Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said in an interview yesterday.

He noted that this favorable development made the government even more confident that the country could post a 1-1.5 percent growth in export receipts for the full year as against the zero growth earlier it projected.

The moderate growth expected by the government this year, if realized, would be a reversal of the 15.6-percent average contraction recorded for 2001, the first time in 17 years that the country suffered a full-year decline in exports.

Philippine exports, mainly made up of electronic products, slumped last year due to the global economic downturn which was compounded by the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, the country's main trading partner.

In the first two months of the year, exports stood at $5.257 billion, down 7.7 percent from $5.694 billion in the same period in 2001.

"The rate of contraction is narrowing, for the first two months so far this year, the contraction is

DECLINE/ B7

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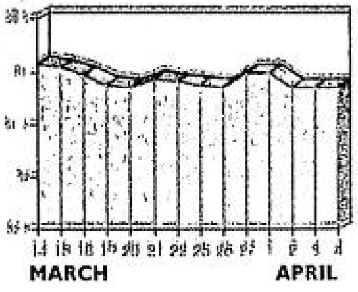

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As of 5 p.m., April 4, 2002

GOLD: $301.30/301.80
per ounce Hong Kong,
April 4, 2002

GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

STOCK MARKET

Shares end mixed

SHARES ended mixed yesterday, but bargain-hunting on a clutch of blue chips over low local interest rates kept the main index afloat, traders said.

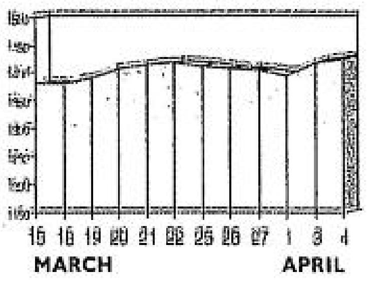
News that Standard & Poor's upgraded its ratings outlook for the Philippines to stable from negative was largely ignored by the market, coming after Moody's Investor Service and Fitch made similar upgrades earlier.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index advanced 6.55 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,426.27 after losing 3.03 points Wednesday to 1,419.72.

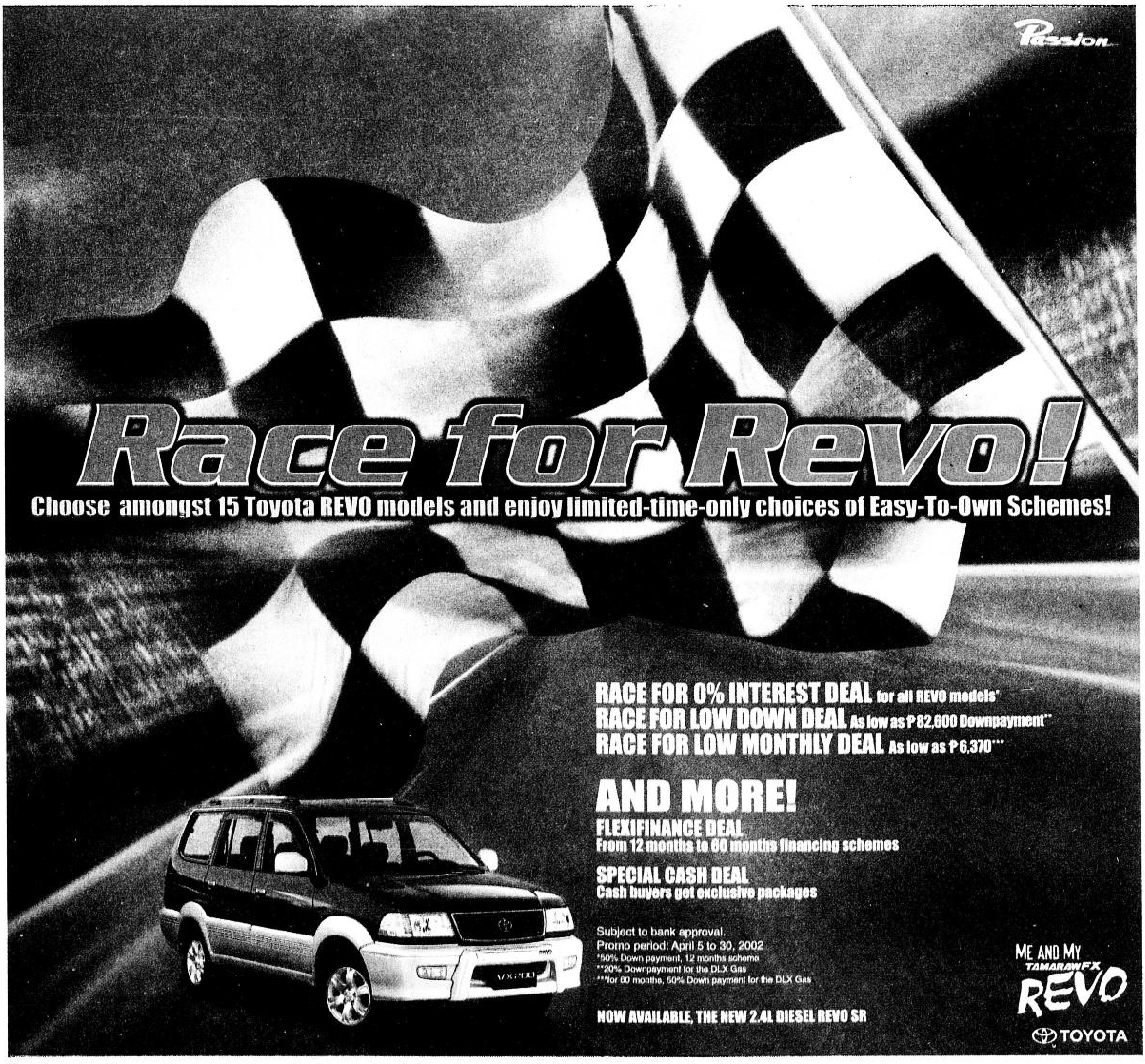
The broader All Shares Index gained 1.54 points to 761.57 after climbing 9.06 points to 760.03 the previous day.

Losers beat gainers 33 to 30, with 47 issues unchanged. Value turnover dropped to P598.12 million from P610.2 million on Wednesday. *AP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1260, Series of 2002

GMA says UPS operations to boost RP economy

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—President Macapagal-Arroyo rang the United Parcel Service (UPS) bell here yesterday to signal the formal operations of the courier giant in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ms Macapagal rang the bell three times to open the newest and what UPS executives claimed as the most vital hub in Asia and the Pacific. The facility is a $7-million, 23,000-square foot hub located at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here that connects the Philippines to nine major Asian cities.

"The UPS operations in Clark are expected to bring regionwide access to exports and imports and make it a vital center in East Asian transport services," she said.

She said the UPS bell also tolled for the growing economic confidence in the Philippines.

She cited the recent upgrading of the country's investment and credit risk rating from negative to stable.

"Moody's (Moody's Investor Service, an international investor trading service) upgraded our rating last January from negative (to) stable. And now Standard & Poors is also upgrading us. Thus the UPS is a microcosm in the international business community's reaction to the Philippines," Ms Macapagal said.

UPS invested $300 million for its intra-Asia air hub, including aircraft and a $7-million facility.

There will be 10 initial flights connecting Clark to Singapore, Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, Bombay, Taipei, Hong Kong, Osaka and Tokyo.

The Cologne-Bombay-Clark-Taipei route is part of the "around-the-world flight" of UPS, the firm's officials said.

"This (the intra-Asia hub) is the last piece set into place which dramatically improves our connection to the nine major Asian markets with enhanced overnight delivery services, including an industry-leading, early-morning delivery option," said Ronald Wallace, president of UPS International.

"The intra-Asia hub is the catalyst for new factories and new jobs," he said. UPS initially provided 120 jobs in its Clark hub.

Wallace also said Clark, a former American-run air base, boasts of the longest runways, a pair of 2-mile runways and four parallel and nine connecting taxiways.

Charles Addams, president of the UPS Asia-Pacific Region, said Clark was selected because of its strategic location.

"Its location, location, location. All major cities are accessible from one-and-a-half hours to four hours," Addams said. "We looked at almost all cities in Asia, including those in Cambodia and we always go back to the Philippines."

He said the Clark inter-Asia hub is a "well-planned decision" allowing for the aggressive promotion of its services in Asia.

Last year, UPS started operating six weekly flights from the United States to China and established a $21.4-million facility in Singapore. The new hub in Clark will improve service to China by 24 hours, UPS officials said.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the UPS hub and the intra-Asia hub of the courier firm Federal Express, which was opened in September 1995 at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales, make the country more integrated in supply chain delivery.

"The transport of valuable raw materials is now much easier and effective and the raw market is now more accessible," Roxas said.

Ms Macapagal said the Manila North Rail Transit project would be revived to complement the UPS intra-Asia hub operations. The rail project, she said, would provide faster transport from Manila to Clark.

She said she was preparing the refinancing scheme of the project between the Philippines and South Korea and European investors.

Ms Macapagal also downplayed concerns on peace and order in the area.

"I feel quite safe here, specially in Clark. It's not like UPS is establishing its hub in Basilan," she said.

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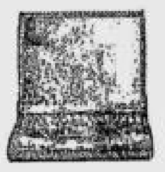

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WELCOME
BACK
RJ
TONIGHT AT EDSA SHANGRI-LA LOBBY

The guy needed a well-deserved rest but now he's back in the night scene. Ramon "RJ" Jacinto who entertained Baby Boomers for 15 years at his legendary home of Rock N" Roll, Bistro RJ, is back after a 2-year hiatus. RJ did not totally disappear, he just quit the weekly night scene and performed at special concerts.But now, RJ's back with a fresh band, a new repertoire, a new sound - playing the latest and the greatest hits of 4 decades every Friday night at the main lobby of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. The Band is simply called "RJ and Friends".Transforming the large lobby of the EDSA SHANGRILA HOTEL into the ultimate party place every Friday night. RJ and the Edsa Shangri-La group will go all out together with Bacchus wines and Chivas Regal to come up with party treats for the elegantly chic Baby Boomer crowd. Opening night will be April 5. The fun starts at 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight. Raffles prizes will be given away through the night.The pioneer of Rock "N"Roll and Father of Retro in the Philippines will not only dish out the greatest hits of the 60's and 70's but also the present TOP 40 hits. Even young professionals are expected to enjoy the musical variety "RJ and Friends". Like good wine, Jaguar Cars, Brioni Suits and Piaget watches - CLASSICS NEVER DIE, THEY JUST GET BETTER. "RJ is truly a classic, an original and that's all there is to it" says an ardent admirer. RJ's new act has Carol Navea (formerly from parliament Syndicate band) as female singer; Ben Tesoro, guitarist (from the legendary Hi-Jacks band); Carlo Gas on key Boards; Rolly Roldan on Bass guitar and Benjie Evia on drums. Expect a more updated repertoire and a fresh look. You will hear a smooth transition FROM hits of 2002 such as "Bailamos" of Enrique Iglesias; To Eric Clapton's "Layla" and "Tears in heaven"; disco hits of the 70's and 80's like "Native New Yorker" and the big Pointer Sisters hit "Excited", all the way to the greatest 50's like Elvis, Little Richard and the Everly Brothers. Of course, RJ's repertoire will still be heavy on the 60's. So get set, Beatles and Beach Boys fans! An Icon of the 60's and guitar hero, RJ pioneered the legendary RJ and the Riots Band composed of Ateneo classmates. They were 4th year high school students at the Ateneo when they performed in December 1960 in the high school covered courts for a Christmas program. He brings with him 4 decades of musical experience. Returning from a 15-year political exile in 1986, RJ again pioneered the return of Classic Rock and Roll and 60's Retro when he set up Bistro RJ in 1986. The Bistro became the watering hole of the affluent baby boomers such as corporate executives and professionals. They were treated to Rock N' Roll at its best 7 days a week for 15 years. After Bistro RJ closed, Bistro fans had to find other venues. But RJ created such a strong following that the 60's spirit still lives on. Cashing in on this wave are nightspots like CONWAY'S at Makati Shangrila and DISH with the Spirits of '67 band and BUMA, featuring former Bistro RJ Bands. But RJ says there is room for everybody. Even young bands now play 60's and 70's. The market has expanded to the upwardly mobile young professionals which we call Baby Boomlets" say RJ. And just like his classic Fender jazzmaster guitar or his Chet Atkins Gretsch guitar which his mom gave him in 1961, just like Jaguar cars and Brioni Suits, just like good wine and just like Shangri-La Hotels - CLASSICS NEVER DIE, THEY JUST GET BETTER. For reservations call 634-7309

2-step oil price hike starts this weekend

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MOTORISTS, brace for a one-two punch.

Local oil firms yesterday said the first of two oil price increases this month would take effect this weekend at a range of 30-60 centavos per liter.

Officials of oil companies said crude costs rose steeply due to greater demand for fuel in the United States after oil producers cut daily output by about 2 million barrels early this year.

They also noted that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict was pushing prices upward since 60 percent of the world's oil reserves are in the Middle East.

Average crude prices hit $22.96 per barrel last month, up by $3.94 from $19.02 in February.

Virginia Ruivivar, Petron Corp. corporate communications manager, said this meant local costs have risen by P1.34 per liter of refined petroleum products.

"But we could lessen the increases in pump prices if we could do it soon and if crude prices fall back to $22 per barrel by the end of the month," Ruivivar said in a telephone interview.

She said Petron might raise its prices by 30-50 centavos this weekend while the next increase would be at the end of the month.

"Price increases would get bigger if we wait longer," Ruivivar said.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. spokesperson Roberto S. Kanapi, meanwhile, said Shell was looking at a first-tranche increase of 40-50 centavos per liter.

"The global oil market is jittery, specially with Iraq calling for an oil embargo against Israel and the United States," Kanapi said in an interview with dzMM radio.

Fernando Martinez, chair of Eastern Petroleum Corp., said his firm estimated price increases of 50-60 centavos per liter.

"Local costs have risen by P2 per liter since January," Martinez said. "Oil firms may pass on to consumers more than P1, but competition makes a waiting game on who will make the first move."

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. echoed the oil executives' criticism of consumer advocate Raul Concepcion for making statements on when and by how much prices should change.

"Our oil industry is deregulated," Perez said. "Telling the oil companies how much prices should move is like conspiring to set prices."

Concepcion said on Wednesday that oil prices were expected to go up twice by 45 centavos per liter on the 13th and 27th of this month.

"His price quote is actually more than (the energy department's) estimate of price increases," he said. "But we don't announce this because we don't want to influence actual price changes."

S&P upgrades RP credit rating

From page B1

spreads could come in a bit."

Standard & Poor's said the government had reignited the momentum behind structural reform since Ms Macapagal assumed office in early 2001, and had re-established investor confidence during a difficult year for the global economy.

However, the Philippines' foreign currency credit rating will stay below investment grade without a substantial improvement in its fiscal profile and external liquidity, it said.

In February, Moody's also raised the outlook on Philippine ratings to stable from negative, also citing improved government finances.

Meanwhile, Buenaventura said the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the BSP, would likely keep its overnight borrowing and lending rates at 7 and 9 percent, respectively, given the possibility of sustained high oil prices in the next six months that could adversely impact inflation.

"We may just stick to the 5-6 percent (inflation rate target for this year) and expect to be at the lower end of the target. It should give us room to keep our policy rates at current levels. Whether we can still lower it is probably less likely now," he said.

The Monetary Board will take up the possibility of adjusting its policy rates on April 14.

With a report from Reuters

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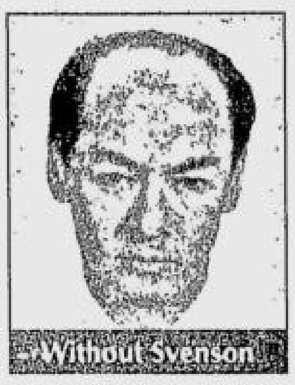

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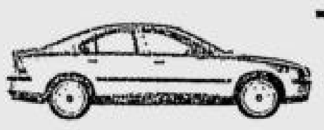

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Belle Resources sees rosy future after spin-off of leisure unit

PROPERTY and gaming firm Belle Corp. expects to return to profitability this year after the sale of a 53-percent stake in unit Highlands Prime Leisure Inc. to a group headed by shopping mall magnate Henry Sy.

Belle will sell a majority stake to Sy, head of SM Prime, for P2.5 billion and Highlands will simultaneously list on the stock exchange this month.

The public will be offered 20 percent of Highlands and Belle will retain 27 percent.

Chief financial officer Manolo Gana dismissed analysts' concerns that Belle would be reduced to a shell company after the sale and said it had retained several big-ticket properties.

"We have Belle Bay City, which is a 19-hectare property on Roxas Boulevard," he said at a briefing on Wednesday. "We have a 7 million square meter property in Tanauan, Batangas," he added.

"We have oil exploration firm Sinophil and we have the Pacific Online which is engaged in lottery operations in (southern) Mindanao," Gana said.

"So the future remains in club, property and various diversified activities."

Highlands Prime's P906-million initial public offering comprises a primary offering of P182.10 million worth of shares and a secondary offering by Belle of its 355.35 million shares in Highlands worth P712.52 million.

Analysts had expressed concern Belle may face bleak prospects following the sale of Highlands to Sy, which would include its top project, the classy mountain resort Tagaytay Highlands in Tagaytay City.

"Eventually it will become a shell company. Its prime assets are being transferred to Highlands. These are their prime projects," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

However, Gana was optimistic Belle would register profits this year.

"We will have some income from the sale of club shares, net gains from selling Highlands Prime shares, other investments," he said. He declined to give a figure for the expected net loss for 2001.

Belle's net loss widened to P977.1 million in the first three quarters of 2001 from P957.2 million in the same 2000 period.

Financing charges in the period from January to September rose to P607.6 million. Belle's debt was estimated at around 6.5 billion pesos at the end of 2001.

Adding to its financial woes was the stoppage of the Basque-inspired handball game jai-alai in June last year after the Supreme Court said it would be better for the legislature to decide whether to allow it to continue.

Reuters

Republic of the Philippines
National Capital Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 142
City of Makati

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION
FOR REHABILITATION OF ALL ASIA
CAPITAL & TRUST CORP.

SEC CASE NO. 01-1122

ALL ASIA CAPITAL & TRUST CORPORATION,
Petitioner
x---x

ORDER

A revised Rehabilitation Plan, having been filed to this Court by the Rehabilitation Receiver, Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion on March 12, 2002 all creditors and interested parties are given fifteen (15) days from notice within which to file their comment/ opposition thereto.

Interested parties/creditors are directed to attend the creditor's meeting to be held at the Ayala Banquet Hall, Makati Sports Club, Makati City on April 30, 2002 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Atty. Concepcion is directed to publish this Order once in the Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Philippine Star within five (5) days from notice.

SO ORDERED.

Given this 25th day of March at Makati City.

ESTELA PERLAS-BERNABE
Judge

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PSE urged to challenge SEC order on ISMI listing

By Doris C. Dumlao

A GROUP of veteran brokers led by Robert Coyiuto has petitioned the Philippine Stock Exchange to challenge in court an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission to exempt dormant Itogon Suyoc Mines Inc. from its listing rules.

"We demand that the PSE appeal such order of the SEC in view of its far-reaching consequences on the independent standing of the PSE as a self-regulatory organization (SRO) and to determine the extent of the SEC's power to grant selective exemptions from PSE's listing rules," the group said in a letter to PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco and PSE president Ernest Leung dated April 2.

Aside from Coyiuto (R. Coyiuto Securities), the letter was signed by five other PSE brokers: Harry Liu (Summit Securities), Ismael Cruz (IGC Securities), Omar Cruz (Citicorp Securities), Federico Galang (PCCI Securities Brokers Corp.) and Tony King (Armstrong Securities).

Excluding Liu who is an incumbent PSE director who ran under Coyiuto's slate, these brokers were all members of the PSE listing committee chaired by Coyiuto during the PSE board's last term from March 2001 to 2002. They asked Yuchengco and Leung to immediately convene a PSE board meeting to discuss the matter.

The brokers said their request was urgent considering that the SEC order would become final 15 days from March 27 and in order to give an opportunity to the lawyers in case the SEC order dated March 25, 2002 was to be appealed.

The SEC had overruled the PSE board's decision to disallow the listing of the shares of ISMI, which sold a 40-percent stake to Philweb.com, the technology holding firm of former industry minister Roberto Ongpin. The SEC argued that the bourse had "exceeded its discretion" by refusing to grant cash-strapped ISMI exemption from a requirement to undertake a stock rights offering prior to the sale of shares to a new investor.

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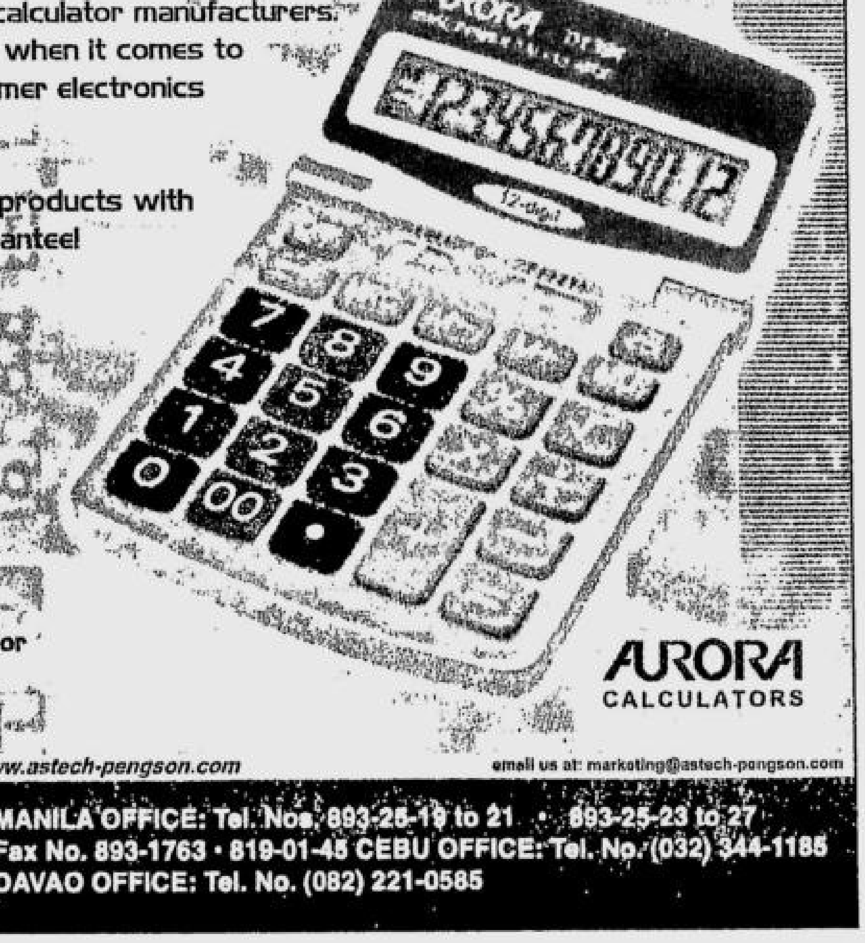

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PLDT still studying financing options

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's dominant telecommunications provider, said yesterday it was still studying various options on how to pay debts maturing this year.

PLDT issued the clarification to the exchange in reaction to reports that PLDT planned a roadshow for a $500-million bond offer this year.

"We reiterate that PLDT continues to evaluate various financing alternatives actively as part of its liability management exercise. The company will make an appropriate announcement if and when any material financing is finalized," PLDT corporate secretary Lourdes Rausa Chan said.

PLDT has reportedly tapped Credit Suisse First Boston and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter to handle a proposed $500-million global bond issue.

Reuters

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, April 4, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67	67	66.5	67	491,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	44	41	43.5	2,036,300
First E-Bank Corp.	2.26	2.26	2	2.08	185,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	43.5	43.5	42.5	43.5	149,600
Philippine National Bank	65	65	65	65	800
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	4,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	100
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.5	22.5	21.5	22.5	67,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.6	1.48	1.54	1,410,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1340	1340	1340	1340	570
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.06	1	1	1,006,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1090	1090	1090	1090	13,210
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	37	37.5	37	37.5	44,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	780,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	805	805	805	2,040
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.06	0.0625	1,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	76,000
Piltel	0.48	0.49	0.47	0.47	6,930,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	555	555	545	550	42,850
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.022	122,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	35,200
Manila Electric Co. B	46.5	47.5	46.5	47	458,300
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.74	1.74	4,893,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.82	1.86	1,659,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	16,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.55	1,787,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	470,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	83,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23	23	23	23	65,000
RFM Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.52	832,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	41,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	47.5	48	109,300
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64	63	63	178,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	10.5	12.5	10	12.5	12,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Atok-Big Wedge. Inc. B	11	11.5	11	11.5	2,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	25,593,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2	2.02	2	2	597,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	250,000
APC Group Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	15,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	40,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.79	2,780,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	960,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.1	0.0825	0.0975	13,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	114,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	64,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	150,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.13	1,100,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
Ionics Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	10,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	2,000,000
Medco Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	670,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.6	0.6	160,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	6,210,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	50,000
Uniloil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.3	0.3	600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	10,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.61	9,700,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Mondragon Intl. Phils. Inc.	0.36	0.42	0.36	0.42	720,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38	38	37.5	38	1,285,900
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	12	12	12	12	1,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref	770	770	770	770	1,400
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.74	789,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	790	790	790	790	2,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	15,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	71,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	5,585,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,110,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,950,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.38	2.38	2.32	2.32	3,255,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	200,000
SM Development Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	10,139,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	100,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.045	0.0525	0.045	0.05	134,600,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.047	0.05	0.047	0.05	2,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	20,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	50,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	40,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.02	0.018	0.019	7,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	90,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.022	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0048	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	6,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	5,366,380	147,076,140.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	313,186,390	326,469,775.00
PRO	24,139,000	117,169,850.00
Mining	184,360,000	7,024,550.00
OIL	24,110,000	153,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	551,161,770	597,893,615.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	588.46	UP 11.06
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,930.17	DOWN 5.20
PRO	627.22	UP 7.21
Mining	1,438.11	DOWN 13.33
OIL	1.60	UP 0.06
All Shares Index	761.57	UP 1.54
Composite	1,426.27	UP 6.55

NO. OF ADVANCES: 30; NO. OF DECLINES: 33; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 110; NO. OF TRADES: 2,627

CURRENCIES

April 04, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.138758	1.000000	51.2100
Japan	Yen	0.008583	0.007537	0.3860
United Kingdom	Pound	1.635939	1.436600	73.5683
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146006	0.128215	6.5659
Switzerland	Franc	0.686329	0.602700	30.8643
Canada	Dollar	0.716380	0.629089	32.2156
Singapore	Dollar	0.618419	0.543065	27.8104
Australia	Dollar	0.605400	0.531632	27.2249
Bahrain	Dinar	3.020738	2.652661	135.8428
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303661	0.266660	13.6557
Brunei	Dollar	0.615079	0.540132	27.6602
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000102	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.026095	0.022915	1.1735
UAE	Dirham	0.310043	0.272264	13.9426
Korea	Won	0.000863	0.000758	0.0388
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.878150	44.9701
Brazil	Real	0.492058	0.433651	22.2073
Denmark	Kroner	0.134465	0.118504	6.0686
India	Rupee	0.023247	0.020488	1.0492
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.298602	0.263158	13.4763
Mexico	New Peso	0.125658	0.110742	5.6711
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498697	0.439502	22.5069
Norway	Kroner	0.130760	0.115239	5.9014
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018928	0.016681	0.8542
South Africa	Rand	0.102316	0.090171	4.6177
Sweden	Kroner	0.110250	0.097163	4.9757
Syria	Pound	0.022032	0.019417	0.9943
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032512	0.028653	1.4673
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001261	0.001111	0.0569

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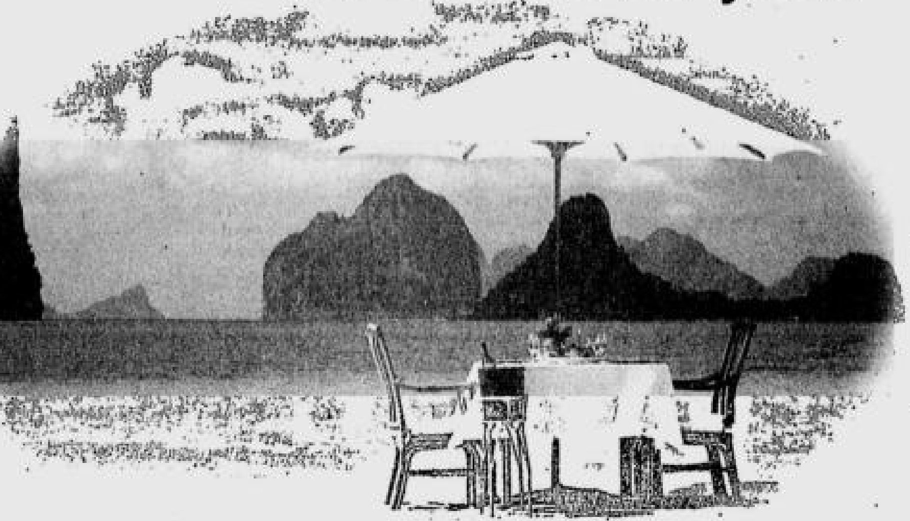

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Information delivered at the right time, in the right format, and to the right person is a great boon to retailers. Otherwise, the information is useless, unwieldy, and can even be disastrous to the business.

That is why communications networks have become a necessary appendage retailers can't do without. If you are one of those who value effective communications in your retail business, a local area network (LAN) connection in your corporate headquarters is probably one of the best tools you can have.

With a LAN, you know that the information you need somewhere in your office network can be accessed with a few strokes of the keyboard and a few clicks of the mouse. It could be a PowerPoint presentation, your sales and inventory figures, or annual reports for the past five years. If it's on the network, you can get the information instantly.

However, extending this network to all your branches or stores nationwide could pose a problem. Will it mean shelling out millions of pesos to do it? Will it mean sleepless nights thinking about someone hacking into your system to steal your trade secrets?

Not so with PLDT Brains Virtual Private Network for Retailers.

Alfredo S. Panlilio, PLDT Senior Vice President for the Corporate Business Group said PLDT has studied this twin problem of cost and security precisely to come up with a product that addresses the special concerns of retailers.

"Nothing could be more intimidating than building a nationwide network that would not break down, that is highly secure but at the same time would not cost an arm and a leg to put up. PLDT already has the secure infrastructure ideal for VPN, and now the company is offering retailers cost-effective rates so they can enjoy the benefits of timely information for informed and intelligent business decisions," said Panlilio.

VPN, or Virtual Private Network, allows authorized users working in remote offices, at home, or on the road to connect securely to your corporate servers using the routing infrastructure provided by PLDT Brains.

The secure connection to the PLDT Brains network serves as a private communication network, despite the fact that it is actually a shared network, hence its name, Virtual Private Network. With the use of certain software and hardware, security is assured and maintained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year (366 if it's a leap year).

From the point of view of the user, wherever he may be, the VPN is a point-to-point connection between the user's computer to the company's servers.

"What used to be done at the end of the day can now be done real-time. No more dial-ups, no more hours of faxing, and no more misleading and inaccurate sales reports," said Nerissa S. Ramos, PLDT Vice President for Business Solutions.

"Once the exclusive tool of multinational companies because of its prohibitive cost, this technology has now been made available by PLDT to the Filipino entrepreneur," she added.

With PLDT Brains VPN for Retailers, information on inventories and sales is updated at the instant a sale is made over the counter. Managers can now crosscheck other store inventories and refer customers to other branches where a desired product is available, complete with size, color, and price. With this capability, stores will never go "out-of stock."

Imagine, sports apparel shops or designer clothes shops in malls around the country that almost never turns away a customer, or a popular fast food chain that always has ample supply of its popular dessert.

A prime example of the power of PLDT Brains VPN for Retailers would be the SM Supermalls, which would soon be able to leverage these capabilities through a partnership with PLDT. SM Malls around the country will soon be able to connect all of its malls to the corporate headquarters (SM Prime Holdings).

Today, major retail networks have realized the value of communications to their businesses. Many are now implementing expensive and complicated networking schemes in order to move ahead and differentiate themselves from the competition. For them, implementing advanced networking schemes is too time-consuming and a drain on corporate resources, forcing them to look for answers elsewhere.

PLDT Brains VPN for retailers provides an innovative and cost-effective solution to that problem. With its team of dedicated experts, the best technology, and PLDT's countrywide telecommunications backbone, VPN can provide all the solutions for a company's communication needs. It takes over the burden of implementing the infrastructure and lowers the cost of implementation and maintenance. This gives retailers more streamlined communications to fully optimize its operations and it allows them to be more competitive and able to serve their customers better.

And most importantly, PLDT Brains VPN for Retailers allows them to focus on what really matters--their retail business.

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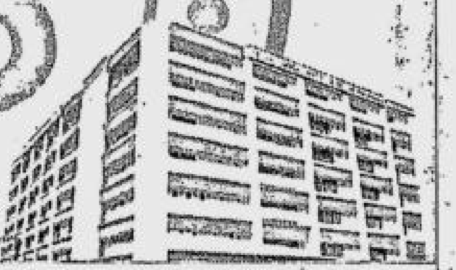
ORACLE Academic Initiative



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318i	2,050,000	717,500	**32,000**
318i Exec	2,200,000	770,000	**34,500**
318i M Sport	2,300,000	805,000	**36,000**
325i Exec	2,735,000	957,250	**42,500**

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Tel. Nos. 438-04-22 • 638-07-34 to 43
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Prestige Cars Makati, Inc.
2324 Pasong Tamo Extension Makati City
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Fax 816-73-25

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Tariff body imposes quota, duty on ceramic tiles

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE TARIFF Commission has directed the Department of Trade and Industry to impose prohibitive duty and quota on ceramic tiles after its five-month probe established a direct link between the import surge and the domestic industry's losses.

The decision is in sharp contrast to the Tariff Commission's rejection of the DTI's petition to grant the same protection to the cement industry. In the case of the cement issue, the three-member body said it did not see any connection between the losses incurred by the Big Three cement makers—Cemex, Holcim and Lafarge-Blue Circle—and the influx of cement imports.

In its summary report, the Tariff Commission recommended that a definitive general safeguard measure in the form of tariff-rate quota and a specific duty be imposed on imports of ceramic floor and wall tiles.

The DTI, which imposed a provisional duty of P5.40 per kilogram last December, has the discretion on the level of quota and tariff to be imposed on ceramic tile imports.

The DTI exempted imports from Thailand, India, Sri Lanka and Iran from the provisional duty because they constitute less than 3 percent of the country's total ceramic tile imports. Most of the ceramic tile imports come from Europe, United States and Indonesia.

The Tariff Commission's findings showed that while there were other factors that contributed to the overall impairment of the domestic ceramic tile industry, cheap imports in increased quantities were the dominant cause of serious injury to the industry.

The Tariff Commission noted that the increase in the volume of tile imports starting in 2000 was sharp and significant to cause serious injury such as loss of market share, inability to increase production and sales volume despite rising demand, decline in employment, underutilization of capacity and losses in operations.

In Philcemcor's case, the Tariff Commission threw out the DTI's findings that Philcemcor's losses were due to the surge in cement imports.

The Tariff Commission said the industry's losses could be traced to the huge interest expenses on loans incurred by the Big Three in its acquisition of up to 89 percent of the domestic capacity. The manpower and production cutbacks in the industry, it said, were part of a strategic move to streamline operations by mothballing 20 kilns from 1997 to 1999. It stressed that the markets need to remain open to imports to provide a "competitive discipline" to the Big Three.

Solon backs DA on GMO rules

ISABELA congressman Rodolfo Albano is batting for the accelerated growth of agriculture in the country through the adoption of modern technology-based methods of improving farm yield and preserving the environment.

Albano also cited the issuance of the government's guidelines on the importation of plants and plant products derived from biotechnology. Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor who signed the guidelines, said these aim to ensure the safety of biotechnology products that will be brought into the country.

Montemayor signed the administrative order governing the release of Genetically Modified Organisms for field testing propagation and for direct use as food or feeds last Wednesday.

Albano said the country should grab the rare opportunity to achieve major advancements in the local agricultural sector with the use of biotechnology and the adoption of plants and plant products produced by the modern process.

The senior solon recalled that, at one point, the country achieved rice-exporter status in mid-1970s "because of bold moves by the government to improve the agriculture sector."

RP, UAE SIGN NEW AIR PACT

United Arab Emirates Minister of Communications Ahmed Humaid Al Tayer shakes hands with Philippine Ambassador Amable Aguiluz after signing the Air Services Agreement between the two countries in Abu Dhabi recently. The agreement paves the way for Emirates Airlines to formally apply for more flights between Dubai and the Philippines in talks scheduled for April 29 and 30, 2002 in Manila between the Civil Aeronautics Board and the UAE Ministry of Communications. Emirates Airlines began flying to Manila in June 1990. Since July 1991, the airline has operated six flights weekly.

March inflation to reach 3.5%, says Neda chief

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said yesterday that inflation probably rose to 3.5 percent last month from a two-year low of 3.4 percent in February.

The National Statistics Office is scheduled to release the official figure today.

In an interview, Canlas said he saw little impact on prices from last month's fuel price increase.

Inflation—a measurement of movements in the prices of basic commodities—was probably benign, as food prices remained stable, he said.

"Also, interest rates have continued to decline, and we're getting the right money supply growth, so I think inflation in March would just be about the same or only slightly up," Canlas added.

Canlas' assessment was in line with a forecast made earlier by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Council, which placed its estimate at 3.5 percent.

"The inflation forecast for March supports the 5- to 6-percent (full-year) inflation target. It is still consistent with the plan of the DBCC to revise the full-year outlook to 4.5 to 5.5 percent," Gilbert Llanto, deputy director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, was quoted earlier as saying.

Canlas said he also did not see any significant impact on inflation of El Niño, a weather phenomenon characterized by a long dry spell.

El Niño tends to jack up food prices as it can drastically cut agricultural production.

Analysts said, however, inflation should be higher at 3.6 percent, given the improving economic situation. *Doris C. Dumlao*

VMC lays off 89 workers

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Victorias Milling Co. Inc. served notices of retrenchment to 89 more employees on Tuesday, bringing to 563 the number of workers dropped by the cash-strapped company since January.

The company announced that it would let go of 89 workers next month and 194 more until the company came up with the work force needed under its rehabilitation plan.

Those given notices of retrenchment on Tuesday belonged to the mill's rolling stock department and comprised the third batch of employees to be retrenched this year.

Their separation will take effect on May 3, according to a statement released by the firm yesterday.

The reduction of the RSD workforce to its "barest minimum" was in line with the phase-out of the company's railroad system that it had used to transport sugarcane from the plantation to its mills.

The department used to be in charge of the repair and maintenance of VMC's railcars, diesel and steam locomotives.

The VMC statement said management would serve notices of retrenchment to the fourth and fifth batches of employees depending on the availability of funds.

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Chief Justice Davide on labor issues

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

WE should all watch this fast rising star from Argao, Cebu, the presiding officer of the impeachment court. He can be the future president of the Republic. It is worthwhile to study how he thinks, how he feels, what are his values and fondest hopes and aspirations.

In my previous articles, we wrote about Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide's penned decisions on labor cases. Further inquiry into the books on labor jurisprudence reveals that the chief is well respected by his peers in the court for his commitment to the cause of the poor, especially the labor sector. Having been raised among the common folks in the mountain barrio of Colawin, Argao, Cebu, more than 60 kilometers south of Cebu City, the chief knows by heart how it is to be a son of the working class.

Commitment to social justice

In the case of Globe Mackay vs. NLRC (GR 82511, 9 March 1992), his peers wrote: "It was then ConCom Commissioner now Justice H.G. Davide Jr. who substantially contributed to the present formulation of the protection of labor provisions and proposed that the same be incorporated in the Article on Social Justice and not just in the Article of Declaration of Principles and State Policies, in the light of the special importance that we are giving now to social justice and the necessity of emphasizing the scope and role of social justice in national development."

Concern for labor

Chief Justice Davide himself earlier penned the ruling on Aris Phils. vs. NLRC (GR 90501, Aug. 5, 1991) where he declared: "Thus, in the Article on Social Justice and Human Rights of the Constitution, which specifically directs Congress to give the highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all people to human dignity, reduce social, economic and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good, the state is mandated to afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all. xxx"

He further said that these included the rights of all workers to self-organization; collective bargaining and negotiations; peaceful concerted activities, including the right to strike in accordance with the law; security of tenure, human conditions of work and a living wage; to participate in decision-making processes affecting their rights and benefits, as may be provided by law; to promote the principle of shared responsibility between workers and employers; and the preferential use of voluntary modes in setting disputes.

Shielding job security

The chief explained in the Globe Mackay case that: "To be sure that both Charters (1973 and 1987) recognize security of tenure as one of the rights of labor which the state is mandated to protect but there is no gainsaying the fact that the intent of the framers of the present Constitution was to give primacy to the rights of labor and afford full protection, at least greater protection, heretofore accorded them, regardless of the geographical location of the workers and whether they are organized or not."

Constitutional protection

In Globe Mackay, it was further stressed by the Supreme Court: "If we have taken pains to delve into the background of the labor provisions in our Constitution and the Labor Code, it is but to stress that the rights of the employee not to be dismissed from his job except for a just or authorized cause provided by law, has assumed greater importance under the 1987 Constitution with the singular prominence labor enjoys under the Article on Social Justice.

Doubts in favor of labor

Chief Justice Davide refused to affirm the dismissal of a Rex Books Store sales clerk who committed an error in paying a book agent. For a sum of P2,760 she lost her job. The chief credited the lady with good faith and the benefit of all doubts saying that "this dictum is in consonance with the policy of the state, as embodied in the Constitution, to resolve doubts in favor of labor." (De Guzman vs. NLRC, GR 130617, Aug. 11, 1999)

The chief held that: "In determining the penalty to be imposed xxx due consideration must be given to the employee's length of service and the number of violations she committed during her employ." He reminded us that "dismissal is too harsh a penalty for the inefficiency of an employee where the offense was the first to be committed xxx and she did not do it with malice xxx."

Advocate of compassion

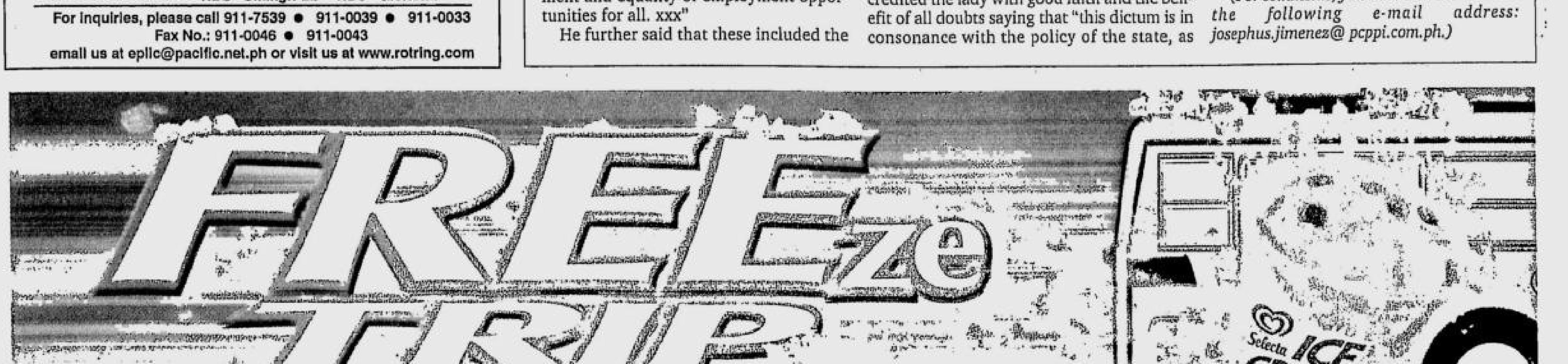
In de Guzman, he wrote: "The employer's prerogative to discipline must be exercised without abuse of discretion. Its implementation must be tempered with compassion and understanding. While an employer has an inherent right to discipline employees, we have always held that this right must always be exercised humanely and the penalty it must impose should be commensurate to the offense involved and to the degree of its infraction.

Davide stressed: "The employer should bear in mind that, in the exercise of such right, what is at stake is not only the employee's position but her livelihood as well. The law regards the worker with compassion. Even where a worker has committed an infraction, a penalty less punitive may suffice, whatever steps may be committed by labor ought not to be visited with a consequence so severe. There is also his or her family to consider. Unemployment brings untold hardships and sorrows upon those dependent on the wage-earner."

Fidelity to law

From the hills of Colawin where I used to pass from Langin, Ronda, in my trips to Argao, from the courtroom in Cebu, where I worked as interpreter while Atty. Jun Davide practiced law, from the time we campaigned for him for the Concon and Batasan, I always knew deep in my heart that this man H.G. Davide Jr. is the epitome of a lawyer's fidelity to law and love of country. We are all blessed to have him as Chief Justice. We would love to see him lead this nation someday.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@ pcppi.com.ph.)



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LOWERING TRANSPORT COSTS

Palace orders rollback of cargo handling rates

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG has ordered the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to roll back cargo handling rates by 20 percent as part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's mandate to lower transport costs in the country.

This was announced by Presidential Adviser Luis Lorenzo during the 4th Mindanao Food Congress in Cagayan de Oro City.

Lorenzo said the President's order was part of her commitment to bring down the cost of moving goods throughout the country as part of her economic development plan for the country.

The President had previously ordered Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and Transportation and Communication Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez to resolve by Labor Day, May 1, the transport issues plaguing the country's food production and security.

The country's major business groups led by the Coalition for Shipping and Ports Modernization recently appealed to President Macapagal to stop the PPA's "capricious" increases in cargo handling rates that have nudged up shipping costs by up to 80 percent since 1998.

In a letter to Ms Macapagal, the business groups asked for a rollback of the 10 percent to 15 percent increase in arrastre and stevedoring services made in February last year; a revocation of the 10-percent increase approved in Jan. 12 this year; and a suspension of ongoing public hearings for another 25 percent hike in cargo rates.

Handling costs have gone up by 80 percent for foreign cargoes and 52 percent for domestic cargoes from 1998 to 2002. The increases were approved "unconscionably and capriciously" by the PPA without regard to the situation of port users and sometimes without even waiting for cargo handlers to petition for an increase.

The series of rate increases were approved without public hearings and under dubious procedures highlighted the PPA's conflict of interest in being both a regulator and revenue earner. "This is the equivalent of granting the Energy Regulatory Commission a percentage of every increase it grants in fuel prices," the business groups said. The PPA, which gets a 10-percent cut from cargo handling fees, saw its revenues rise by 48 percent even though total cargo volume shrank last year.

The business groups said the PPA's trigger-happy disposition on rate increases "has become ruinous to port users, costly to consumers, and harmful to the economy."

The business groups said the petitions for cargo rates should only be entertained after the PPA has established a clear mechanism for determining rate adjustments and a fair process for conducting public hearings.

The business groups that signed the letter included the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Distribution Management Association of the Philippines, Federation of Philippine Industries, Export Development Council, Philippine Exporters Confederation, and business chambers from Cebu and Mindanao.

Decline . . .

From page B1

at 7.7 percent, that is the smallest in quite a long while," said Song Seng Wun, an economist at GK Goh Securities.

He said the average contraction in exports for the fourth quarter last year was 19.5 percent year-on-year, and 22.5 percent in the third quarter.

"The single-digit decline that we are seeing so far this year is supportive of the view that the manufacturing sector is on the rise," Song added.

"I think it would still be a fairly gradual recovery going forward. The year-on-year decline should continue to narrow because the year-ago bases are so low . . . we expect a return to positive growth either in April or May on a sustained basis," Song said.

In a separate interview, Asian Development Bank economist Ernesto Pernia said the government's target of a modest growth in export receipts for this year was reasonable.

"It seems that the decline is slowing down, which is a positive sign," Pernia said. "However, we need to look at specific exports and we have to relate this to imports. We have to see the performance for March."

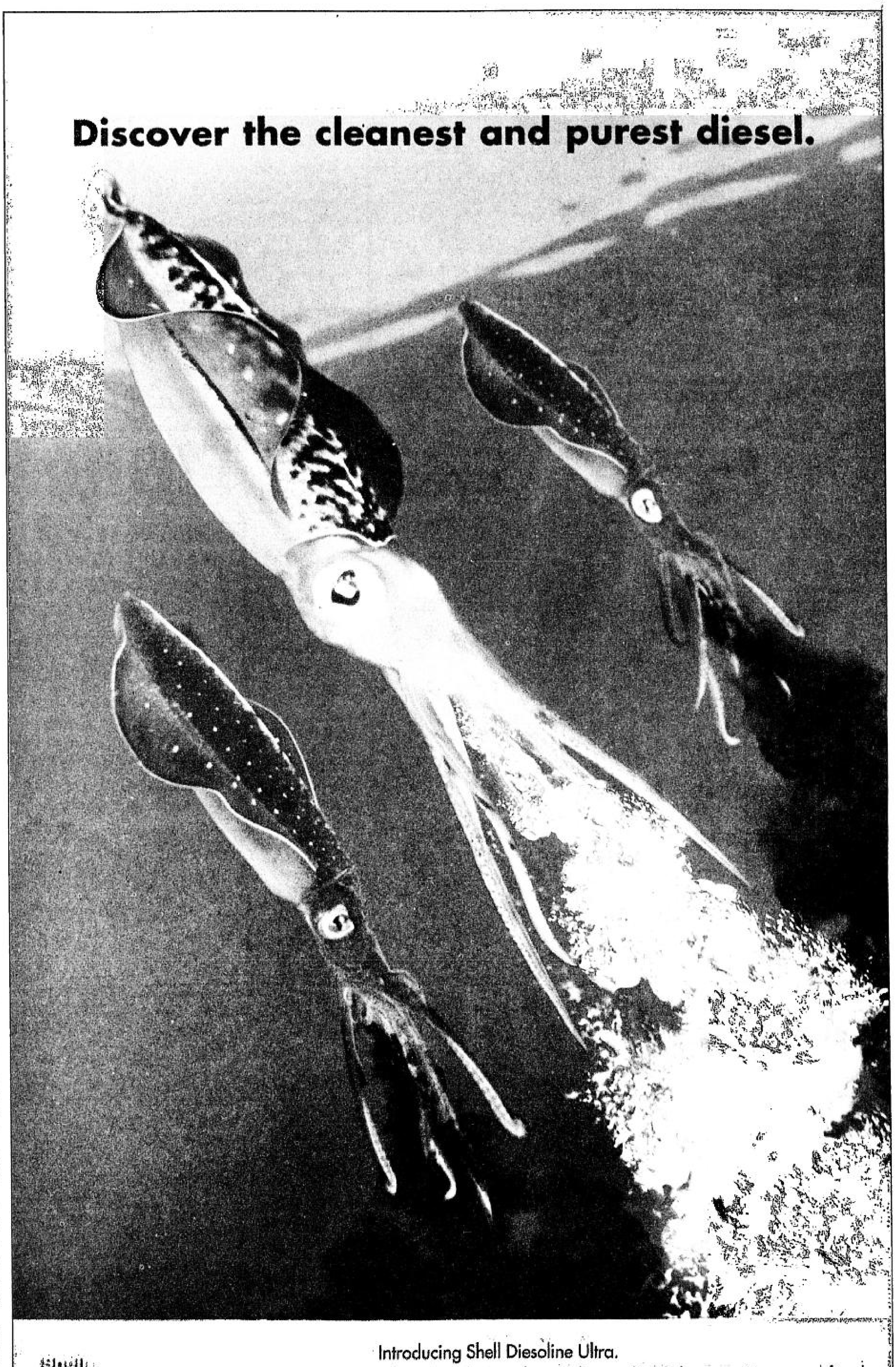
As of January, the country's imports were still in the doldrums, posting a decline of 18.7 percent from a year ago, the worst contraction in seven years, giving rise to fears that a recovery was still far out in the horizon.

However, economists were now saying that the fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the US had not been as severe as originally expected and that the faster-than-expected rebound of the US economy would soon benefit the rest of the world.

Electronic components, which accounted for 53 percent of the aggregate export revenues for February, shrank by 12.5 percent to $1.392 billion from $1.59 billion last year.

In January, the year-on-year drop for electronic components was at 14.5 percent.

"It probably confirms the view that the worst for exports is over, because the non-electronics portion is about flat and the electronics portion is the only one that is still contracting," said Jojo Gonzales, head of research at Philippine Equity Partners. *With a report from Reuters*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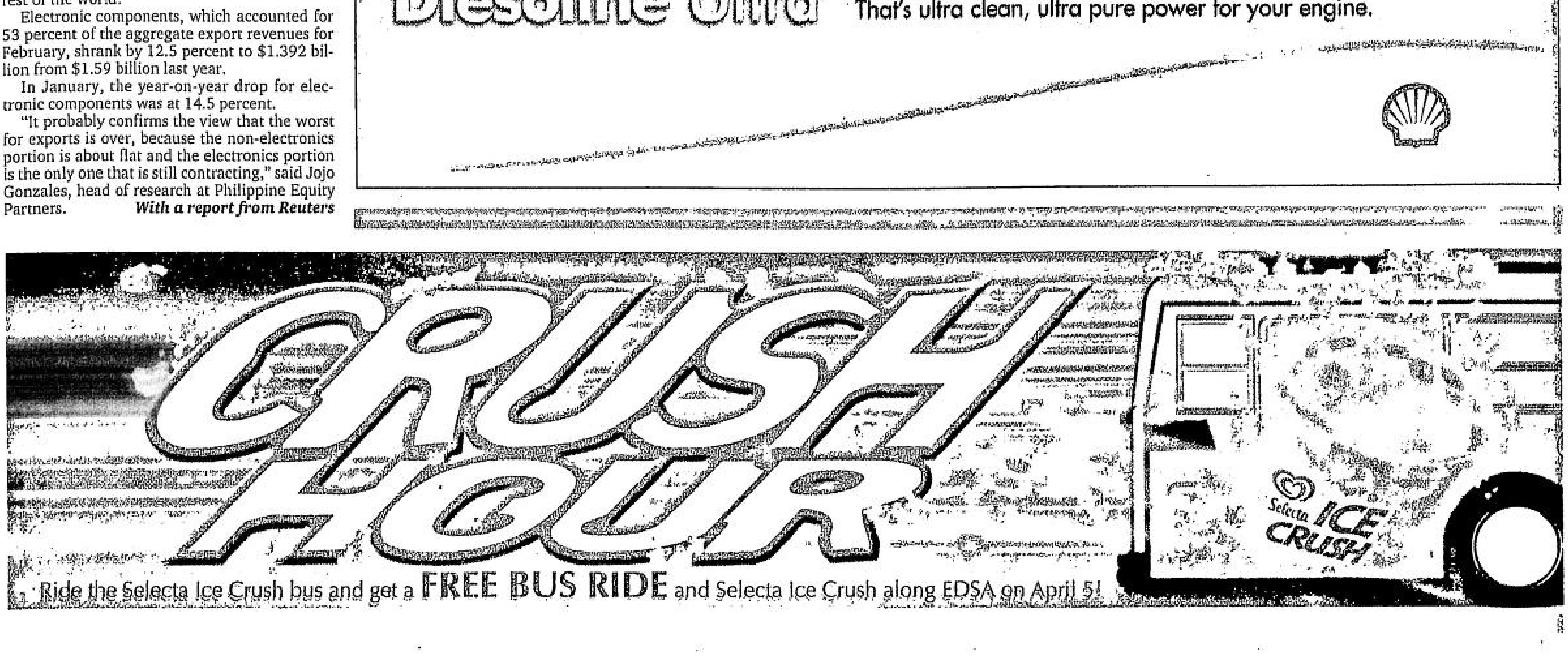
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of extra-judicial settlement of estate by & among the heirs of the late CESAR M. MADARANG who died w/out a will last Dec 25, 2000 covering TCT No. T-107695 under Doc No. 430, Page No. 87, Book No. XXXIV, Series of 2001 by Notary Public Atty. Emiliano P. Espiritu.
(PDI-April 5, 12, & 19 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

EBC Corp. Certificate #60662-90,000 shr under the name of SIMEON TAN was declared lost. If no contest is received w/in 1 year new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-April 5,12 & 19, 2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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OBITUARIES

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of

CABALLERO WORLDWIDE PARTNERS

deeply mourn the passing of

Col. Deogracias F. Caballero

PMA Class of 1940
on April 1, 2002

We thank him for his unflagging support and
for continuing to inspire us.
His remains lie in state at #32 Charleyville St.,
White Plains, Quezon City.
Interment will be on Sunday morning, April 7, 2002,
in the family mausoleum
at the San Juan Municipal Cemetery

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the chosen charities of "Dodong" and "Ching" Caballero.

DR. SALVADOR S. MADARANG, JR.

(Retired Provincial Veterinarian of Zambales)

Has peacefully joined our Creator
on the 3rd day of April 2002
at the age of 55.

He is survived by his loving wife **LERMA**; his children **Gerard**, **Jason** and **Jane**, **Le** and **Lyn**; his grandchild **Jan Yvonne**; sister **Enya** and brothers **Enrique** and **Romulo**.

His body lies in state at the family residence in San Antonio, Zambales.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 7, 2002 at the Public Cemetery of San Antonio, Zambales.

In Loving Memory
on the
Second Death Anniversary
of

MARCELO S. BALATBAT

Who passed away on April 15, 2000

Holy Mass will be offered today at 7:15 a.m. at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

We, members of Marcelo's family, request all his loved ones, relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for him.

We would like to thank everyone, who in any way or another, became a part of Marcelo's meaningful life.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
➊ Copy of Death Certificate ➋ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS FREE OBIT DESIGN

"I assure you, those who listen to My message and believe in God who sent Me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins but they have already passed from death into life."
JOHN 5:24

In Memory of our Dearly Beloved

ENGR. DEMETRIO D. COPUYOC

who peacefully joined our Creator on April 1, 2002
at the age of 87 and now rests in His goodness and grace.

We, his children **AVELINA** & Rey, **AL** & Elsie, **MA. LUZ** & Job, **RAMON**, **MARIO** & Velda, **FRANCIS** & Emilie, **TITA** & Raffy, **JESS** & Eleanor, **ROLLY** & Levy, **REY** & Auring, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 2, St. Alphonsus de Liguori Parish Center, Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will take place on Sunday, April 7, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the chapel.

Interment for Spiritual Healer
From United States of America

MARGIE WOODS LAIRD

(April 8, 1992 - June 15, 2002)

Known to her Spiritual Family and many friends
in the Philippines as "Mama Margie"

A special service to celebrate the life of Beloved
Margie Woods Laird will be held at
El Progresso Chapel, Carmen, Pangasinan,
Sunday, April 7, 2002.

The Interment Service is expected to begin at 10:00 AM following the Sunday morning service which starts at 7:30 AM

Spiritual Family and friends of Mama Margie, especially members of her Love Healings Groups in the United States, are invited to attend the services, in person or in Spirit.

Mama Margie and her husband Joseph Packard Laird had planned to celebrate Mama's 80th birthday in the Philippines. When a brain tumor cut short her earthly life, her husband and her daughter, Nicole Serpe brought her ashes to the Philippines for interment on the grounds of El Progresso Chapel, near to the grave of her beloved Sisted Josefina Sison, founder and Spiritual leader of El Progresso.

"THE LIGHT OF GOD NEVER FAILS"

Notice concerning "time" for the people in U.S.A., who want to synchronize with the Interment Service: In AM Sunday, April 7, 2002 by local time in the Philippines is the same instant as 9PM Saturday, April 6, 2002 by Eastern Standard Time in East coast U.S.A

In U.S.A. Clocks will be advanced by one hour and the time designation will be change from "Standard Time" to "Daylight Saving Time". The change will occur during the night of Saturday. Sunday, April 6, 7

The Interment Service will take place during "Standard Time", several hours before U.S.A. switches from "Standard" to "Daylight Saving"

(PDI - April 5 & 6, 2002)

In Loving Memory
on her
First Death Anniversary

TORIBIA HEMEDES CECILIA

of 34 Brgy. Sala, Cabuyao, Laguna
(April 27, 1927 - April 5, 2001)

Holy Masses for her eternal peace and happiness will be offered at the following churches today, April 05, 2002.

• St. Policarp Parish Church	Cabuyao, Laguna	6:00 A.M.
• Poor Clare Monastery	Cabuyao, Laguna	6:00 A.M.
• St. Francis of Assisi Parish	Pulo, Cabuyao, Laguna	6:00 P.M.
• Saint Rose of Lima Parish	Santa Rosa, Laguna	6:00 A.M.
• Chair of St. Peter Parish	Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	6:00 A.M.

Her loving husband **Jose C. Cecilia Sr.**, children **Mariz** and **Freddie**, **Tipin** and **Leo**, **Beth**, and **Tolitz** and **Baby**, her grandchildren **Jay Jay** & **Beah**, **Joy**, **Jojo**, & **Stephen**, **Robin**, **Joey**, **Joyce**, **Jomai** & **Jolo**, request all her loved ones, relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayers for her.

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

INVITATION/NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED APPLICANTS

For the Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of Tollway Service Facility at the North and South Luzon Tollway

The Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC) with offices at EDSA (corner Reliance St.), Mandaluyong City is inviting any interested natural or juridical person from the private sector for the establishment, operation and maintenance of Tollway Service Facilities (TSF) along the North and South Luzon Tollways to submit their proposals thereto. To qualify for submission, an applicant **must**:

(1). In case of a **Service Area Proponent**, be qualified under Section 5.0, Chapter II of Republic Act 8479 otherwise known as the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998 and Section 4.0, Rule II of the Department of Energy Circular No. 98-03-004 dated 11 March 1998 Promulgating the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 8479.

In case of a **Rest Area Proponent**, be qualified and authorized under the law to do business in the Philippines.

(2) Be first registered as an applicant with PNCC between **April 12 to May 2, 2002** during office hours and secure therefrom copy(ies) of the Terms of Reference which sets forth the pertinent information, instructions and requirements attendant to the application upon payment of a non-refundable sum of P1,000.00 per TOR.

Only registered applicants as aforestated or their duly authorized representative(s) who have secured the aforesaid Terms of Reference are required to attend a conference or briefing on the subject matter on May 3 in the aforesaid PNCC office 9:00 AM. Non-attendance shall be deemed as a waiver of the right to thenceforth participate in the ensuing processes.

PNCC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

This Invitation / Notice shall be published in two newspapers of general circulation once a week for three consecutive weeks commencing on 05 Apri 2002.

(Sgd.) **LUIS F. SISON**
Chairman & CEO

(PDI - April 5, 12 & 19, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT **DEOVAL C. LOPEZ**, whose picture appears above, with last known address at No. 40 Sgt. Esguerra corner Scout Albano, Quezon City, is the subject of a **WARRANT OF ARREST** issued by the Presiding Judge of Branch No. 59, Regional Trial Court of Makati City, in connection with the case of Estafa docketed as Criminal Case No. 00-461.

A CASH REWARD awaits anyone who shall provide material and vital information that will lead to the arrest of the subject person. Any information leading to his arrest may be communicated to the following numbers: 724-3374 or 722-4677.

Any and all information leading to the arrest of DEOVAL C. LOPEZ, including the informant's identity and contact numbers shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and privacy.

(PDI - April 5, 2002)

INQUIRER

TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

'Hot' jacket

Q. Why is a lightweight sporty jacket called a 'blazer?'

A. A fire blazes away, and a blazer, literally, goes back to a 'torch.' Towards the end of the 19th century, Englishmen's clothes—typical of the then prevailing British social climate—were somber and subdued. The only exception were university students who proudly displayed their college 'colors.' Yet even these were rather inconspicuous. It was not surprising therefore that people were stunned, when one day they saw the rowing crew of St. John's College, Cambridge, wear scarlet flannel jackets. Seen from afar, the men seemed 'ablaze,' and so their jackets were dubbed 'blazers.' The name stuck and is now applied to all similar jackets of whatever color.

A Friendly Reminder. When fire breaks out, smoke and gases can be more deadly than flames. If you are surrounded by smoke, tie a rag (preferably wet) around your nose and mouth to filter the fumes. Smoke rises, so crouch on the floor on your hands and knees.

Past Forward. This day in 1968: Civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther, King Jr., the man who inspired black and white Americans with his eloquence, vision and compassion, was shot dead at a motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Escaped convict James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the shooting but has since renounced that plea.

WORD WATCH

Bokilya : Tagalog slang for glib talk, from the Spanish *boquilla*, "a little mouth" or "mouthpiece of a musical instrument or pipe."

PDI -- April 5, 2002

EMBASSY of the
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
MANILA

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Manila announces that it is willing to buy two (2) lots of land that are appropriate for constructing the new Embassy and Residence premises in Manila.

The two lots should be in Makati City and the Residence's lot area should be approximately 2000m2 (located either in Dasmariñas Village, North or South Forbes Park) while the Embassy's lot area should be approximately 1500m2 (only in Dasmariñas Village).

For more details please contact the Embassy at the following address:

#2229 Paraiso cor. Banyan Sts.,
Dasmariñas Village, Makati
Tel. Nos. 843-9220/843-9232

All offers should be submitted within (20) twenty days after the date of issuing this advertisement.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN
MUNICIPALITY OF BAGGAO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ADVERTISEMENT TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

THIS IS TO INVITE all interested bidders to come for pre-qualification for the purchase of:

1. **One (1) unit Reconditioned KOBELCO SK 045 Hydraulic Excavator powered by a ISUZU 4BD1 Diesel Engine. Equipped with a 0.45 cu.m. Backhoe bucket.**

Pre-qualification of bidders will be on **April 15, 2002,** 10:00 a.m. at Baggao Town Hall. Bidding will follow right after the pre-qualification at the same venue.

Interested bidders shall bring with them the following documents for pre-qualification purposes.

1. Mayor's Permit
2. Certificate of Registration/Business Name
3. Latest Financial Statement
4. VAT/Non-VAT Registration Certificate

All the above documents shall be presented in their original copy.

Bidders are required to pose their bidders bond (cash) equivalent to five percent of their total bid.

Representatives of dealers/suppliers are obliged to bring with them their special power of Attorney.

(Sgd.) **LEONARDO C. PATTUNG, M.D.**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–Apr. 5, 2002)

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB MARKET

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

OBITUARIES

NARCISO "Achie" ZAMORA REYES

Has serenely joined the Lord on April 3, 2002 at the age of 72.

His bereaved wife **Leni Veloso**; his children **Troy Bernardo, Jonji Bernardo, Chuck, Candy, Krie** and **Noey Lopez**; his children with **Norma Lopa** (†), **Jun** and **Marimil, Nick** and **Vicky** (†), **Norman** and **Jessie**, and **Nanoy**; his grandchildren **Paolo, Nicolo, Maritina, Chino, Pipay, Javi, Bruce** and **Marella**; his sister **Aging Sumulong**; his brother **Tony** (†); his sister-in-law **Rosie Binghay**; his brother-in-law **Frankie Veloso**; other in-laws, relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains will be in Christ the King Chapel, Nathan St., White Plains, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

In lieu of flowers, donations to SINAG HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS FOUNDATION will be much appreciated.

NENITA ARANDA ROCAFORT

of Cuangco Street, Makati City and San Vicente Ferrer,
Banay-Banay, Lipa City, Batangas

Died on April 4, 2002 at the age of 65.

Her husband **Amado**; children **Gigi & Willie, Amy & Richard, Oscar & Gina, Alex, Pebbles**; sister Siony; and grandchildren request the pious reader to say a little prayer for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City and will be transferred to the family residence in Banay-Banay, Lipa City, Batangas on April 6, 2002.

Interment will be at the Eternal Garden, Lipa City on April 7, after the 1:00 PM Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

ORLANDO "Orleng" G. ANDAYA, SR.

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 31, 2002 at the age of 80.

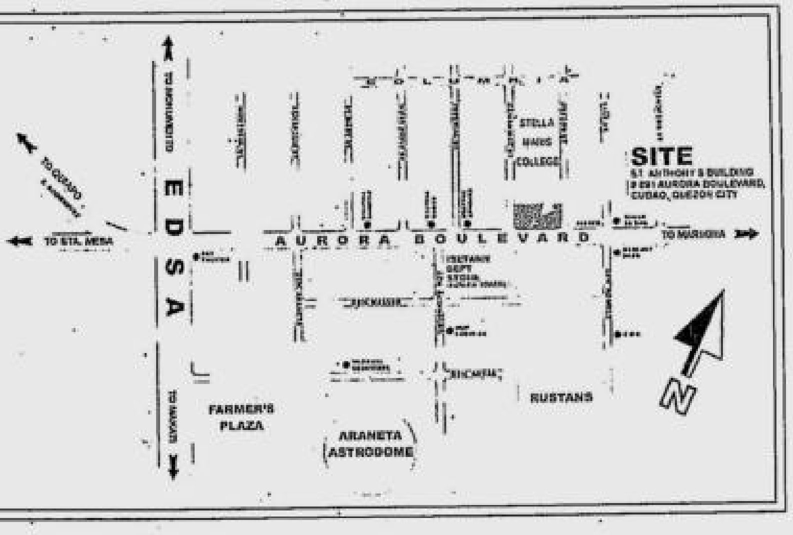
His loving wife Normeng; children Arneng-Nene, Oly-Beth, Ver-Tess, Daisy-Alex, Roy-Lani, and Baby-Milo, brothers Rogel, Vicente Jr., Dr. Orlando II; and sisters Alma, Gilda Roqueta and Ramona request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence in M. Naval Street, Malabon City.

Interment will be in Tugatog Cemetery on Sunday, April 7, 2002 at 2:00 PM.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call
912-9008 to **11**.



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
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Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
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Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

RICHARD Belluzzo, 45, is shown in this Sept. 2, 1999 file photo, at Microsoft's Redmond, Washington, facility. Belluzzo said he was stepping down after just over a year in the position. AP

Microsoft's president resigning

SEATTLE—Rick Belluzzo, Microsoft Corp.'s president and chief operating officer, has unexpectedly resigned after a little more than a year in the position. The company said it had no plans to replace him.

Belluzzo resigned Wednesday as the software giant announced a restructuring that would give its main business units more responsibility for their fiscal and operational performance, duties he acknowledged were traditionally a chief operating officer's responsibility.

Analysts said the restructuring would make it easier for Microsoft to split into multiple companies, something the company was briefly ordered to do during the government's antitrust trial, although it was later overturned. Microsoft said the restructuring had nothing to do with its antitrust trial.

The announcement, made after markets closed, surprised many observers of the Redmond, Washington-based software giant, who felt he was in line to become chief executive. But in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press, Belluzzo said the restructuring was important for the company's future growth.

"We needed to really change the orientation of the business to where business owners could not only (control) product development but also how the product goes to market and so on," he said.

Some analysts have questioned Microsoft's long-term growth prospects in recent months, and many praised the move Wednesday.

Rob Enderle, an analyst with Giga Information Group, said Microsoft was likely also hoping to make its units more fiscally responsible at a time when all technology companies, including Microsoft, were struggling to make profit targets. *AP*

Cloud lingers over dollar's future as tempest subsides

WASHINGTON—A tempest over the might of the US dollar has died down, but a cloud lingers over the greenback's future despite a lack of evidence that the Bush administration commitment to a strong dollar is wavering.

The storm over the dollar's strength—target of long-standing and bitter ire from US exporters—gained a renewed force when New York Federal Reserve president William McDonough volunteered a week ago that "on a theoretical basis, the dollar is a little overvalued."

The comment, which was unusual since currency policy was recognized as the exclusive preserve of the US Treasury, rattled through global currency markets where other currencies scored quick but short-lived gains against the dollar.

Although US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill stepped in swiftly to tamp down speculation over whether the Bush administration might be prepared to permit a weaker currency, questions over the US commitment to the policy persist.

"Strong dollar, no change in policy," O'Neill asserted in a television interview, adding for emphasis "If we're going to announce a change in policy, I'll rent Yankee Stadium," a reference to a past promise that there would be no mistaking should a policy shift occur.

But even his stout defense of a stance that began during the Clinton administration failed to entirely erase the questions from traders' minds.

How strong is strong

One reason is that O'Neill, like Treasury chiefs before him, carefully avoids specifying exactly how strong a strong dollar should be.

Another is that the Bush administration yielded to the pleas of industry on a separate issue by imposing tariffs on imported steel from Europe and lumber from Canada despite its avowed free-trade stance.

"Somebody in the White House was willing to go against their free-trade principles when it came to steel, so it is not entirely far-fetched to believe that dollar policy can be subject to a tweak," said currency strategist Sean Callow of research firm IDEAglobal in New York.

He added that, according to published reports, O'Neill was against imposing steel tariffs, as was Fed Chair Alan Greenspan. "So does the fact they happened anyway suggest that O'Neill's word on currency policy is not quite as authoritative as thought?" Callow said.

O'Neill has made changes to former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin's simple strong dollar statements by often saying that currency levels are determined by economic fundamentals. This elaboration landed him in hot water early in his tenure but seemed to have since been accepted by financial markets.

So far, there is little or no evidence to justify the market skepticism about the administration's strong-dollar commitment. *Reuters*

Free trade to be focus of Thai-US talks

BANGKOK—US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick was due Thursday to hold talks here with Thailand's commerce minister that officials said could hammer out a timeframe for a free trade area between the two countries.

Zoellick, on a two-day visit to kick off a regional tour in which he would press for freer trade in Southeast Asia, was scheduled to hold midday talks with Commerce Minister Adisai Bodharamik before the pair addressed reporters.

"Thailand will consult with the United States concerning setting up a Thai-US free trade area which could enhance trade and investment expansion between the two countries," the ministry of commerce said in statement.

Local press reports quoted Adisai as saying he was hopeful the talks would yield a time frame and a plan of action for the future FTA.

A US Embassy official said Zoellick was prepared to address the "full range of trade issues" between the two nations.

"I think he will say we're at the beginning of this process," an embassy official told AFP about the FTA discussions.

The two sides are expected to cover several bilateral issues, including Thailand's sluggish progress on protection of intellectual property rights, trade tariffs, biotechnology and the foreign investment climate in Thailand.

Washington this week released its 2002 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers, in which it criticizes Thailand's high tariff structure as a "major impediment to market access in many sectors." *AFP*

McDonald's says service not too slow

NEW YORK—For McDonald's Corp., the fast-food chain that built its empire on speed, the perception that its service is too slow has emerged as a nagging problem.

Battered by low customer satisfaction scores, McDonald's vowed to cut the time it takes to serve Big Macs, french fries and soft drinks, which it recently admitted was the biggest complaint from its US customers.

"Speed of service is the No. 1 issue for us, followed by the quality of service," Mike Roberts, president of the company's US business, said in a March 22 conference call with analysts. "We are the No. 1 convenience restaurant and we have to work on speed of service. That's our primary focus."

Public recognition of slow service was a rare and humbling admission for the world's largest restaurant chain, which built its business on providing unparalleled efficiency in the fast-food industry.

The revelation comes as McDonald's searches for ways to counter lackluster US sales, which account for 60 percent of its operating income.

Since 1998, the company has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to overhaul its kitchen systems, develop new menu items and improve customer service in its roughly 13,000 US outlets.

Among the most costly improvements was the Made For You food preparation system, designed to let customers customize their sandwiches.

Last year, it launched a so-called QSC initiative focusing on quality, service and cleanliness to remedy complaints about poor service.

Still, none of the measures appear to have worked so far. During the March conference call, McDonald's warned that quarterly and full-year earnings would likely miss Wall Street consensus estimates, which could mark its sixth straight quarter of declining earnings. Sales in restaurants open at least a year were flat in January and February.

Measuring the speed of service is usually a matter of customer perceptions rather than actual timing, according to consultants. But as smaller rivals like Wendy's have made noticeable strides in improving service, McDonald's has lost the edge on speed.

"People who are used to McDonald's being very fast, now don't perceive it that way, when in reality it's probably not taking more time than its competitors," said Dennis Lombardi, executive vice president at food service consulting firm Technomic in Chicago. *Reuters*

BOJ firm on fighting deflation, lifting Japan's financial system

TOKYO—Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami affirmed a strong commitment Thursday to halt sliding prices and boost the fragile financial system through monetary policy.

The central bank has made the "resolution to devote all force, via the provision of ample funds, to stabilize the markets and ensure further permeation of positive impact of the relaxation (of monetary policy), toward solving deflation," Hayami said in his opening speech at a quarterly branch managers' meeting.

Beating deflation "can only be achieved by restoring the Japanese economy to a sustained recovery path. To this end, revitalizing private demand through structural reforms such as tax system reform is indispensable," the governor said.

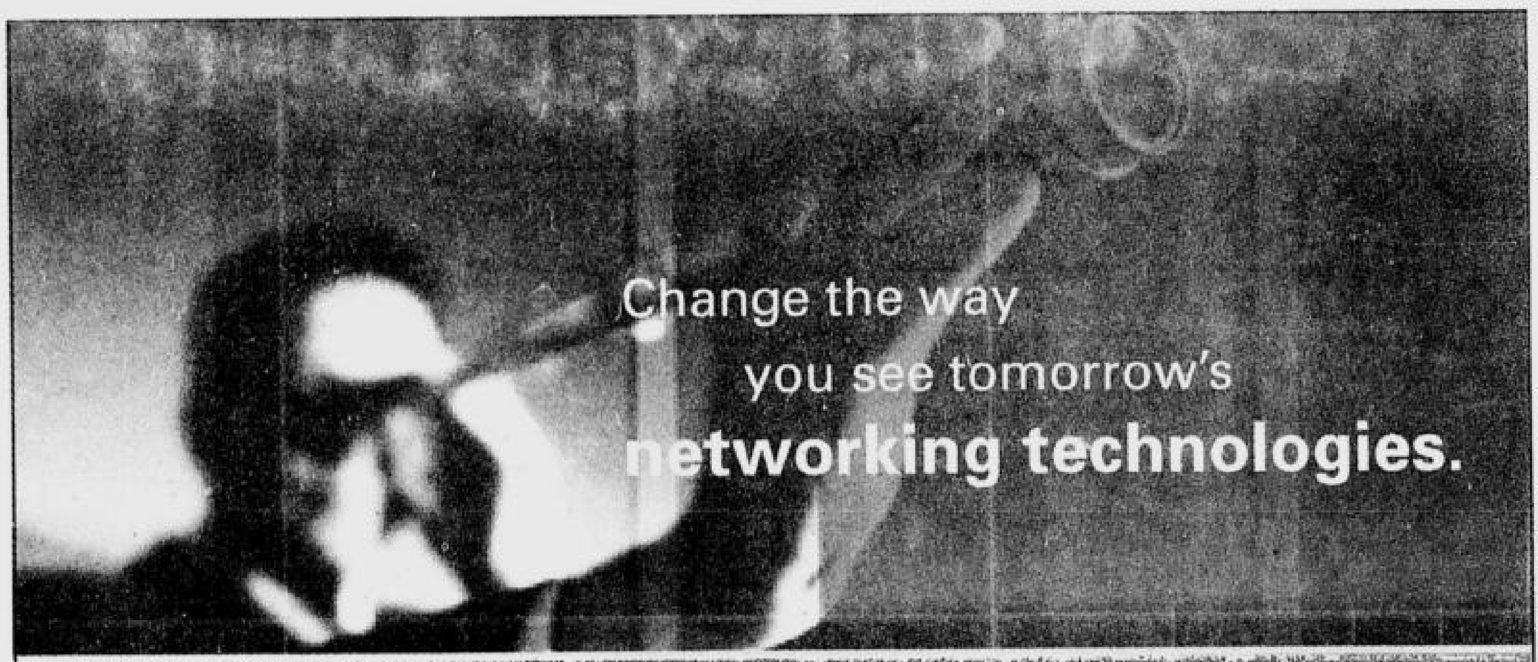
Consumer prices in Japan fell for the 30th straight month in February as demand faltered amid a deep recession. Prices would continue to decline for the time being, Hayami predicted.

The governor remained cautious about the overall state of the world's second largest economy though the BoJ upgraded its monthly assessment for the first time in 20 months in March, citing an improvement in exports and a reduction in stockpiles.

"Japan's economy still continues to deteriorate as a whole, although the downward pressure from exports and inventories is gradually abating," Hayami said.

Japan successfully navigated its way through the fiscal year-end on March 31 without a crisis, but the banking system remained in a severe condition, Hayami said, citing a lack of clear-cut progress in resolving the bad loan problem.

"It is necessary for each financial institution to make further efforts to regain confidence by speeding up the disposal of bad debt, and strengthening the earnings power," he said. *AFP*



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VAT INCLUSIVE P117

NESCAFE Classic
Refill Pack, 25 G. x 60
VAT INCLUSIVE P727 per box
P12.12 per 25 G.

STIK-O Waferstick
Chocolata
850 G.
VAT INCLUSIVE P74

PLUS Juice
Orange, Guyabano
Calamansi, Grape, Apple
Strawberry, Pineapple
250 mL. x 10
VAT INCLUSIVE P38.75 per pack
P3.88 per piece

DOWNY Fabric Conditioners
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VAT INCLUSIVE P157.50
P3.28 per sachet

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VAT INCLUSIVE P1,639 per box, 60's
P27.32 per 180 G.

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P27.90 per 180 G.

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NARCISSUS Button Mushrooms
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VAT INCLUSIVE P543 per box, 24's
P22.63 per can

VAT INCLUSIVE P138.50 per 6's
P23.08 per can

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BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Banking on the unbanked and reaping awards

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

EVER wonder why credit card companies are so aggressive these days?

No one can miss the agents in the malls offering a credit card to anyone they can literally get their hands on.

The fact is, the Philippines represents a huge market for credit card firms and companies offering payment solutions systems.

Jeff Portelli, MasterCard International SVP for product delivery group in the Asia-Pacific, points out in an e-business overview that of the 76-million Philippine population, 19 million of the adult population is banked, meaning it has dealings with the bank.

The balance representing mostly children and teenagers are unbanked.

Portelli made this observation during the recent MasterCard Asia-Pacific general meeting in Shanghai, China.

MASTERCARD's Bob Selander with BPI SVP Tessie Tan

He adds that of the 19 million Filipino adults who have dealings with banks, only 2 million have credit cards.

The country's existing credit spend, or the value of credit card transactions, is about P78 billion.

But the cash market in the urban areas, or the amount of transactions paid through cash, is P71.4 trillion—a vast opportunity for credit card firms.

MasterCard International Asia-Pacific region SVP and GM for Southeast Asia, Ajay Bhalla, says in an interview with Business Friday that checks and cash remain the major competitors of payments companies.

Bhalla says 80 percent of transactions are in the form of cash or checks; the rest use cards—credit, debit, or smart.

In the United States, the share of cards in the payment systems is higher at 30 percent.

"If you only get one percent of the 80 percent, that's already a huge amount," he says.

He adds, however, that credit cards are not the only alternatives to cash and checks. In most Asian countries, except Singapore and Japan, other card payment systems like smart and debit, are gaining ground.

In the Philippines, smart cards seem to be making headway. Mondex Philippines, for instance, made the single largest purchase of Multos multi-application smart cards.

Mondex Philippines, ordered 500,000 smart cards last year.

Bhalla says the Philippine market is attractive because there are no restrictions on credit cards unlike other Asian countries.

At the same time, many Filipinos do not have access to credit, thus, a prepaid card becomes the option.

The youth market, for example, represents a big market but they are not likely to get credit cards on their own (they are usually given extension cards by their parents), so the way to approach them is through via debit or smart cards.

Debit cards are those that have money values while smart cards are usually tied to a particular service or need of the consumer like earning loyalty points.

MasterCard Philippines vice president and head of local operations Jose Villa-Real says one reason why solutions payments and credit card growth have not reached their potential is due to other issues facing financial institutions.

Meantime, the Philippines was the most awarded country in Southeast Asia during the Marketing Awards night of MasterCard International at Shanghai last month.

MASTERCARD International president and CEO Robert Selander with Metrobank Shanghai Branch head Duncan Wang

Metrobank's E.T. Cirrus Maestro International ATM card won a gold in the best Maestro/Cirrus deposit access program Deposit Access Program. Metrobank Shanghai branch manager and a first vice president, Duncan Wang, received the award.

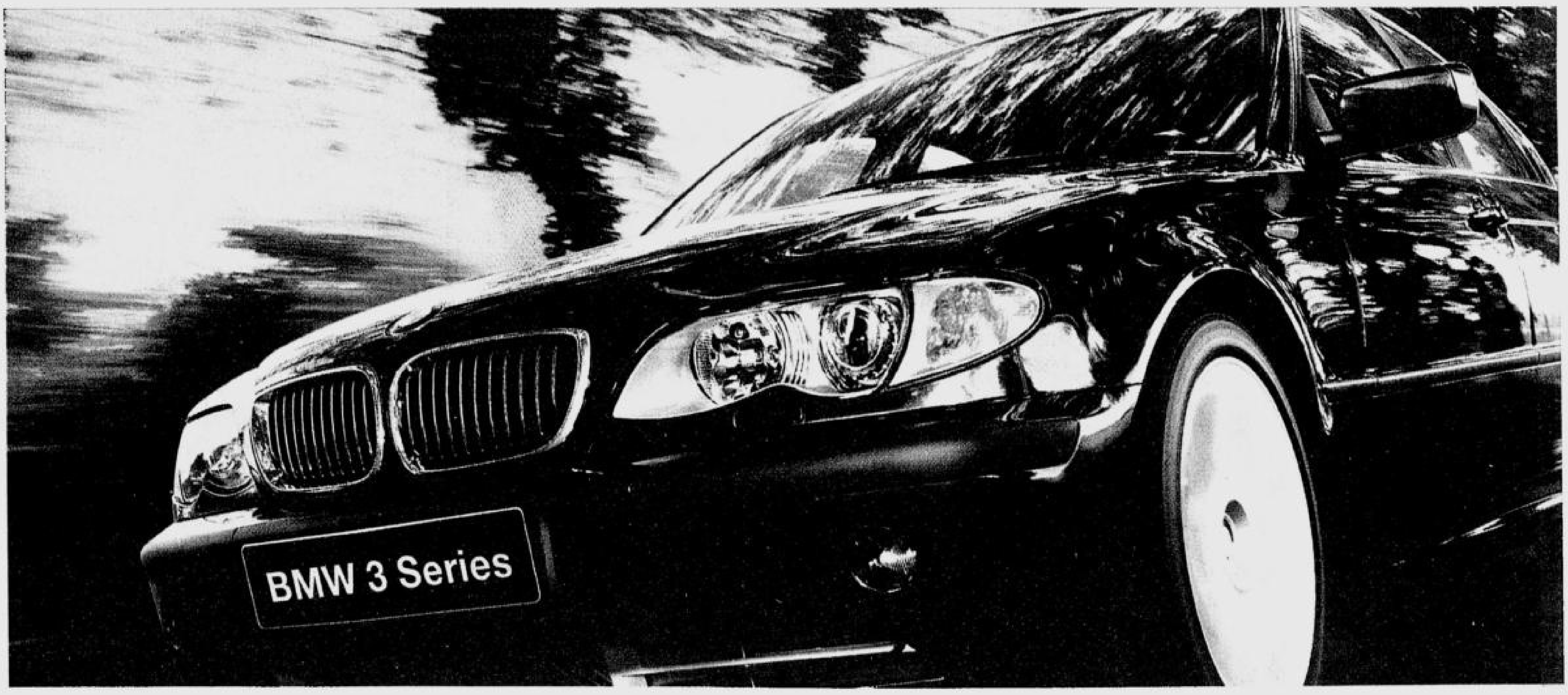
Bank of the Philippine Island's eCredit Virtual MasterCard got a gold award for Best e-Commerce related initiative.

BPI SVP for Cards Banking Division Tessie Tan received the award.

Citibank's Clear MasterCard

BANKING/ C2

MASTERCARD chief marketing officer Larry Flanagan, Citibank VP cards category Bea The-Tan and Alma Gruenberg, Citibank cards program manager



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Philippines wins advertising gold

by Roger Pe

THE PHILIPPINES was on center stage once again as it grabbed a Spike (Best of Show), five Excellence Certificates and eight Finalist awards in Asia's premier advertising competition—the Asian Advertising Awards held in Hong Kong last March 22.

BBDO-Guerrero/Ortega predictably lifted the Philippine flag anew, winning the country's fourth Spike in the 18-year history of the awards show.

Previously, Ogilvy & Mather, Lintas (now Lowe) and Adformatix were the only Philippine Spike winners in the Asian Advertising Awards.

The Philippines' most internationally awarded advertising agency won the Best of Show for its entry—Adidas "Fence" print ad.

The Adidas ad was a simple but world-class rendition of street-basketball challenge to promote the brand. The ad was also a Cannes Finalist last year, and showed that an ad need not have tons of copy to sell.

It stood out in the entertainment and promotion category and was one of only 21 Spike winners honored in a competition producing one of the best prize hauls in a long while.

David Guerrero and David Ferrer authored the ad with a neophyte lensman—Rchard de Guzman—doing the award-winning photography.

"Dining Out," the agency's multimillion television ad for Visa starring Chinese superstar Zhang Ziyi of the Oscar-winning film Crouching Tiger also went home with three Excellence Certificates: Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design and Best Editing.

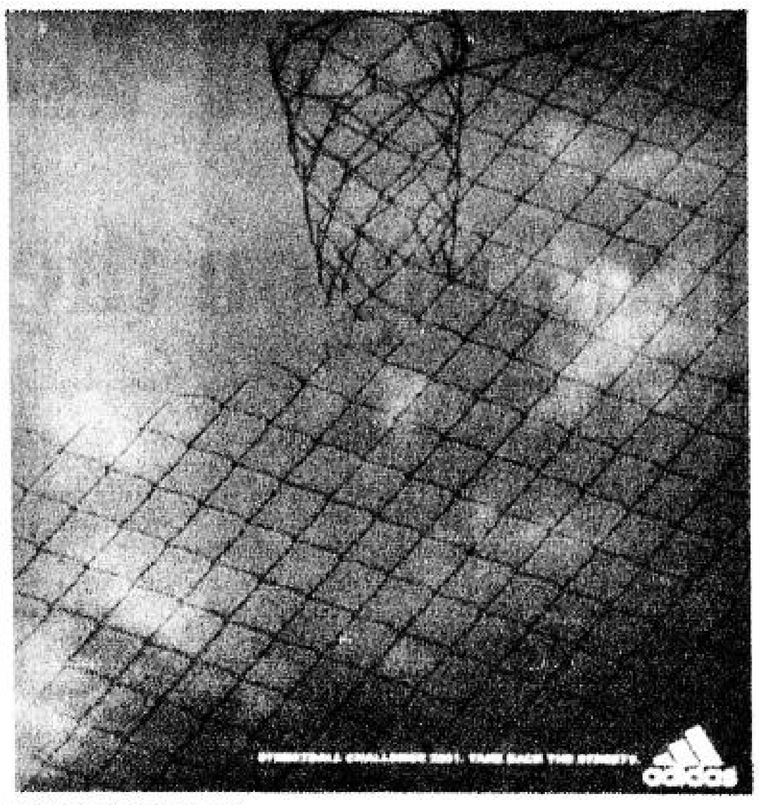
The ad was made by the same group behind the movie The Matrix.

McCann-Erickson's "Filo," an out-of-the-box interactive print ad for Modess and one of the most outstanding Philippine print ads seen in recent years, also sparkled with an Excellence Certificate, boosting the agency's ongoing creative Renaissance program.

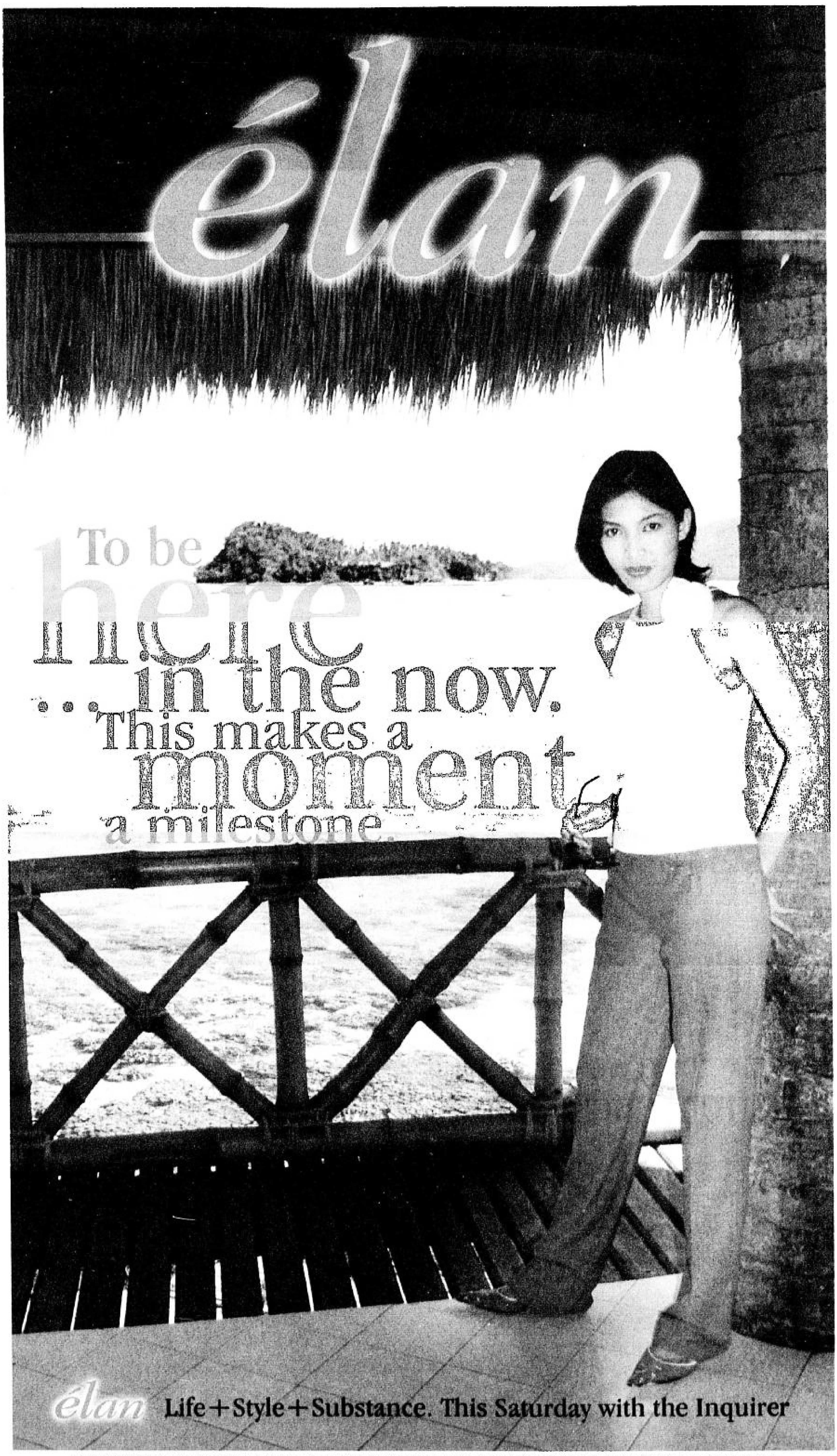
Other finalists which contributed to the Philippines' finest showing in this year's Asian Ad Awards were DDB Philippines (Kidnappings for Prado), TBWA-Santiago, Mangada and Puno (Bed, Sofa, Chair for Kish), Leo Burnett (Election Poster for P & G, Lolo for McDonald's), Aspac (Cars for Nokia), Jimenez D'Arcy (Bowls for I Can Serve Foundation) and BBDO-Guerrero (Construction for Adidas and Guggenheim for FedEx).

The competition awarded the Best of the Best ad to Taiwan Secom Security's "The Hidden Crisis," a home security television commercial from Results Advertising Taiwan after a 45-minute debate between the former and a broadband television campaign from Hong Kong.

Pat Fallon of Fallon McElligot USA fame headed this year's judging, together with Asian creative luminaries Craig Davis, KC Tsang, Geoff Naus, Lo Sheung Yan, David Guerrero and Marc Lucas.



FENCES:Winning ad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Wireless operators vie for youth with ads, promos

CHICAGO—The word is getting out via rock concerts, college bookstores and TV commercials on youth-oriented channels that wireless operators want to be seen as hip and cool in the eyes of their next generation of customers—teens and young adults with cash to spare.

Now that nearly half of Americans own cell phones, wireless operators have already captured their easiest-to-target customers—those who tend to be business users or consumers with an interest in technology.

Now they're turning to 18- to 24-year-olds to boost their customer base. It's a group with money to spend and a lot to say.

According to research firm the Yankee Group, teenagers on average have $4,000 annually in discretionary income per person. Multiplied by the estimated 34.6 million young adults in this country, this means that they have a combined buying power of about $140 billion.

Add to that the fact that they count talking on the phone as one of their top five favorite activities, yet only 32 percent of youth in the United States owned cell phones at the end of 2001. That compares with 65 percent to 70 percent of young people in Europe.

Beyond family focused ads

"This is clearly where the largest growth opportunity is for wireless," Marvin Davis, vice president of advertising for Verizon Wireless, said.

Verizon Wireless, the nation's largest wireless operator, estimates that 11,000 youngsters have birthdays and enter their teenage years every day.

The Bedminster, New Jersey-based firm has tried to lure teen customers through animated, music-heavy commercials as opposed to its family-focused commercials for the general audience. *Reuters*

MASTERCARD senior executive vice president Alan Heuer hands Smart Communications Phils. SVP Dan Ibarra the award.

Banking . . .

From page C1

won a gold award for best print advertising. The award was received by Bea Tan, VP for the Cards Category and Alma Gruenberg, cards program manager.

Smart Communications Inc. SVP for consumer business Dan Ibarra went up the stage for the second straight year in a row when its Smart Money MTV won a silver award for best MasterCard electronic card.

Last year it received an award for its Smart Money.

HSBC's Red MasterCard got a gold award as best ladies' card. HSBC head of cards of Asia-Pacific Nick Sibley received the award.

Overall, the Philippines was ranked second in Asia-Pacific in terms of number of awards, next to Japan which got six awards and tied with China which also won five awards.

Launching a card via the game of soccer

WHEN Smart Communication Philippines' Dan Ibarra showed off his photo with soccer legend Pele, nobody knew who the Brazilian sport great was.

Ibarra accepted the marketing award from MasterCard, during the payments solutions firm's annual conference last year and Pele, being the endorser of the card, was on hand to give the distinctions.

While nearly the rest of the world, yes even Asean countries like Thailand and Singapore, are following the updates on the coming World Soccer Championship, Manila remains oblivious to the event that has people all over the world spending a year's savings just to watch the games live.

But the fact that soccer is not that popular in the Philippines (although the country churns out good players at the secondary level) has not deterred HSBC from banking on the sport to launch a new look for its credit card.

HSBC is set to launch its limited edition world Cup MasterCard to commemorate the event to be held in Asia for the first time. Both Japan and Korea will host the games but the championship will be played in Japan.

HSBC SVP for Personal Financial Services Peter Yeates said the decision to launch the limited edition cards was based on the success of its Olympic Visa cards in 2000.

"The card is not just geared for men for the spirit of sports," he says.

The introduction of limited edition cards is part of HSBC's overall marketing strategy to provide consumers with a range of cards to choose from. "It's customer-driven," he said.

YEATES

Yeates believes soccer is fast gaining popularity in the country. The sport is actually suited for Filipinos, as good soccer players are usually of medium height.

The deterrent to its growth in the country is the huge field needed to play the game, unlike basketball. Right now it is popular only among exclusive boys' schools.

The World Soccer Championship of the FIFA World Cub is held only once every four years and draws billions of TV viewers worldwide, making it the biggest and most popular single sporting event in the world.

The HSBC Limited Edition World Cup MasterCard promotion will run from March 16 to May 15. The promo includes a raffle where the winner wins two round trip tickets to Japan, gets to watch the soccer finals, three-night accommodations and $3,000 in pocket money.

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HSBC World Cup cardholders can also get a chance to win hundreds of World Cup merchandise when they activate and use their credit card within one month from receiving it. This promo will run until August 31. *Margie Quimpo-Espino*

Starbucks dial 'M' for mochaccino

SEATTLE/NEW YORK—Don't want to wait on line for a caffeine fix? Those who crave a Starbucks cappuccino can call ahead to avoid a wait.

A Starbucks Corp. pilot at 12 Seattle-area outlets lets patrons pre-order specialty coffees and baked goods on their cell phones while stuck in traffic, in the office, or even if they're on the way.

"You can program your phone with your favorite order," said Starbucks spokesperson Megan Behrbaum. "Then you press '1' for, say, a chocolate chip cookie and vanilla latte."

Drinks are ready for pickup in three to four minutes at a special counter, and then charged automatically to the user's credit card, the company said.

At least that's the theory. Customers said there are many potential problems: Orders could be late, cold, wrong, stolen, mistaken, duplicated, forgotten—not to mention the risk of flared tempers.

At one test location, in the lobby of Starbucks' Seattle headquarters, a double-shot tall latte with organic milk and extra foam was at the counter, three-and-a-half minutes after the order was called in. But it was not steaming hot.

Starbucks insists its "Starbucks Express" trial, which will be extended to other US cities late this year, has gone off without a hitch.

"We really have had no negative input from customers about the service. Operationally it has gone quite smoothly," said Anne Saunders, vice president of Starbucks wireless ventures.

She said the Seattle-area pilot, which began in November, has been extended indefinitely. "We had intended to do a test and then take it out of the market. But we found that our customers didn't want it to go away."

Fast food not fast enough

Does this mark the advent of first class in fast food?

Starbucks Express targets time-pressed executives and frequent customers "who really want to get in and out of the store rapidly," Saunders said.

The company hopes to increase customer loyalty, following the successful US launch of its pre-paid cash cards last year.

"It's not for everyone, but a sizable percentage of our customers believe this is tremendously convenient," Saunders said. "And they see it as a reason to choose Starbucks versus other specialty coffee shops."

US fast food giant McDonald's Corp. also accepts cell phone orders at three Seattle-area franchises, but plans to end the trial on Monday.

One McDonald's employee said the "McQuick" system—with patrons setting their phones for custom combinations of hamburgers, french fries and drinks—ended because of low customer demand.

McDonald's spokesperson Lisa Howard said the trial had been scheduled to end this week. "McQuick was just a short marketing test," she said. "But we are looking to develop other cashless initiatives that are currently in use across the country."

McDonald's is testing pre-paid cash cards, tokens and loyalty schemes in Chicago, Long Island, New York and Boise, Idaho.

Ontain Corp., which operates the Starbucks Express and McQuick dispatch systems, said other major retailers would also unveil cell phone or Internet-based ordering.

"We are currently working and engaged with several internationally known companies who are looking to begin the service," said Ontain marketing director Jeri Goldberg.

Goldberg declined to reveal their names, but said Ontain's "remote order and pay" system could work "anywhere that someone frequents often and may not want to stand in line". *Reuters*

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National

Hip-hop your way to millions

By Dennis Eroa

MARKETING STRATEGY

TEXAS-BASED Williamson-Dickie Manufacturing Co. started making high-quality work clothes in the United States since 1922, but Dickies only arrived in the Philippines less than two years ago.

Its entry was timely because of the hip-hop fashion that was prevailing and the young crowd embraced its jeans and jackets.

Dody Arcaya, Dickies vice president for sales and marketing, says the formula for its success is quite simple: "From my experience working in garments, I believe that there is not a single brand which specifically targets the youth. Dickies fills this void by concentrating on the hip-hop crowd."

Arcaya, a 48-year-old native of Gumaca, Quezon, knows the jeans market. Before his stint with Dickies, Arcaya's marketing savvy put Lee, Paddocks and Jaworski among the leading brands—not bad for a provincial boy, who worked as a janitor/messenger of a chemical company while finishing his accounting studies at the Philippine School of Business Administration in the early '70s.

"Actually, I started courting the Williamson family as early as 1999," recalls Arcaya. In 2000 he and his core group were able to meet Philip Williamson, fourth-generation Williamson-Dickie chief executive officer, at Fort Worth.

Arcaya and his group composed of brothers Jose and Roberto Atienza, chief executive officer Abelardo Chan and Daniel Villanueva impressed the Dickies CEO with their proposal.

"We beat two big groups," notes Arcaya. They got the official license to operate June 2000.

Dickies opened its first store with limited success at the Jojo's Boutique in Angeles City, but things started to change for the better when they opened the Robinsons Ermita branch on Dec. 8, 2000.

'Robinsons helped us a lot. We're grateful to the support extended by Ms Robina-Gokongwei-Pe," says Arcaya.

Dickies, which is under the American Star Apparel (Phils.) Inc., now has19 boutiques and 70 outlets nationwide.

Dickies' sales, Arcaya says, are significant. He provided the INQUIRER with the unaudited Dickies sales for December 2001 which showed an increase from November's P36.08 million to P107.24 million nationwide.

The 2000 figures weren't something to laugh at, either. The sales performance chart showed sales of P1.4 million (September), P2.36 million (October), P2.35 million (November), and P14.18 million (December).

"While I was confident that Dickies would be patronized, I didn't expect the market to accept it this fast," says Arcaya.

The Atienza brothers said Dickies' success is about quality.

"You'll not regret owning a Dickies," says Jose, who also owns Bunny Jeans.

Not afraid to innovate and known for its rapid response to customers' needs, Dickies has transformed itself from a small overall company to the largest workwear manufacturer in the world. During its early years, Dickies jeans were geared for the American workers.

However it has found a niche in the country among the youth.

To continue "attacking" the youth market, Dickies has supported Slapshock, a Fil-Am band and a regular supporter of Urban MYX. Recently, Dickies has put up a Dickies Racing Team featuring Monching and Tonton Gutierrez.

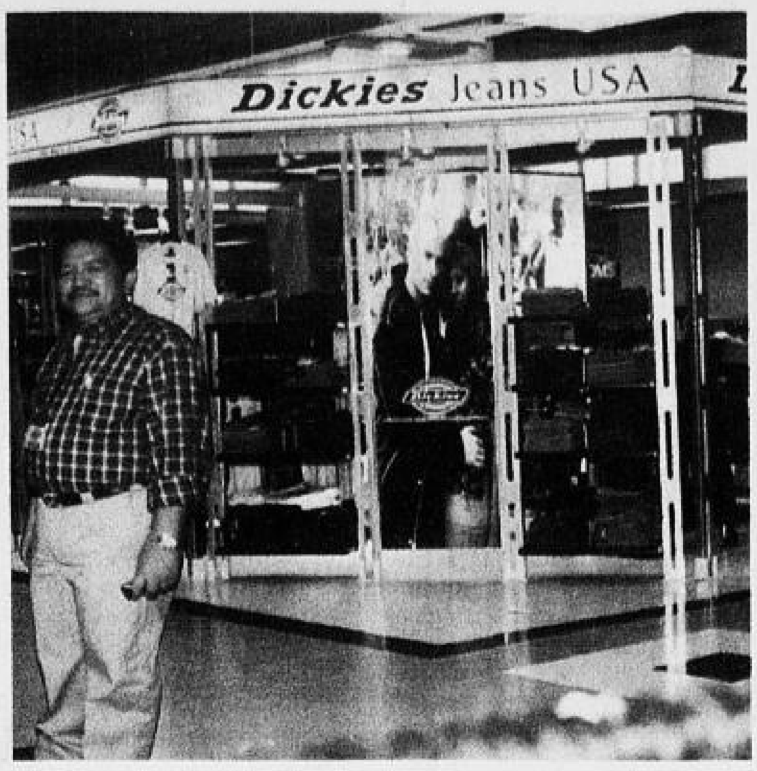
The team will see action in the prestige-rich SVI racing circuit in the SBMA.

Just like in the US, show biz celebrities are known to wearing Dickies. Among them are Carlos Agassi, KC Montero, Raymart and Randy Santiago, Patricia Javier, Piolo Pascual, Angelu de Leon, Glydel Mercado and Judy Ann Santos.

Some of the hot music acts hitting the stage sporting their Dickies are Madonna, Britney Spears, Blink 182, Backstreet Boys, N Sync, Limp Bizkit, Hanson, Green Day and Papa Roach.

Lots of Dickies are also in the movies (Scary Movie 2, High Fidelity, A.I, The Animal, Armageddon, Zoolander, Dangerous Minds, Ritchie Rich, Gone in 60 Seconds, Enemy of the State, Mad City, The Fugitive, etc).

Arcaya sees no slowing down for the company. "Teenagers will continue to badger their elders to line up and buy Dickies. Now, I expect even the parents to have a taste for Dickies."



DICKIES' Dody Arcaya poses in front of a Dickies outlet in Gaisano Mall, Davao City.

Trade exhibits effective link to clients

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SINGAPORE—Trade fairs are not passé. To companies manufacturing machines and equipment for Asia's plastic and rubber industries, these have proven to be effective links and exposure to markets and clients.

AseanPlas 2002, which Singapore Trade and Industry Minister Raymond Lim called "one of the top events in the global trade fair calendar," did just that, comments from exhibiting companies showed.

"We have met up with new customers from Malaysia and Singapore and are generally pleased with the quality of the visitors," said Anuthep Bunditmahakun from the International Business Segment of the HMC Polymers Co. Limited.

"Substantial," was how he described the awareness created by the exhibit for the company.

AseanPlas 2002, which ran for four days in Singapore, attracted 7,712 visitors from 49 countries, the organizer, Messe Dusseldorf Asia, reported.

It said the exhibit, the sixth held so far, posted a 15-percent increase in the number of overseas visitors compared to the show held in 1999.

It added that most of the visitors were in the sectors of printing and packaging, engineering services, electrical, electronics and telecommunications, pharmaceutical, medical and health care.

Majority of them came from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam and Myanmar.

New products were unveiled during the four-day fair. Project sponsor Asean Federation of Plastic Industries said this was a step to encourage the adoption of new technologies and solutions to enable the industries to compete in the global market.

In the exhibit, 345 companies from 22 countries showcased the latest advances in the industries.

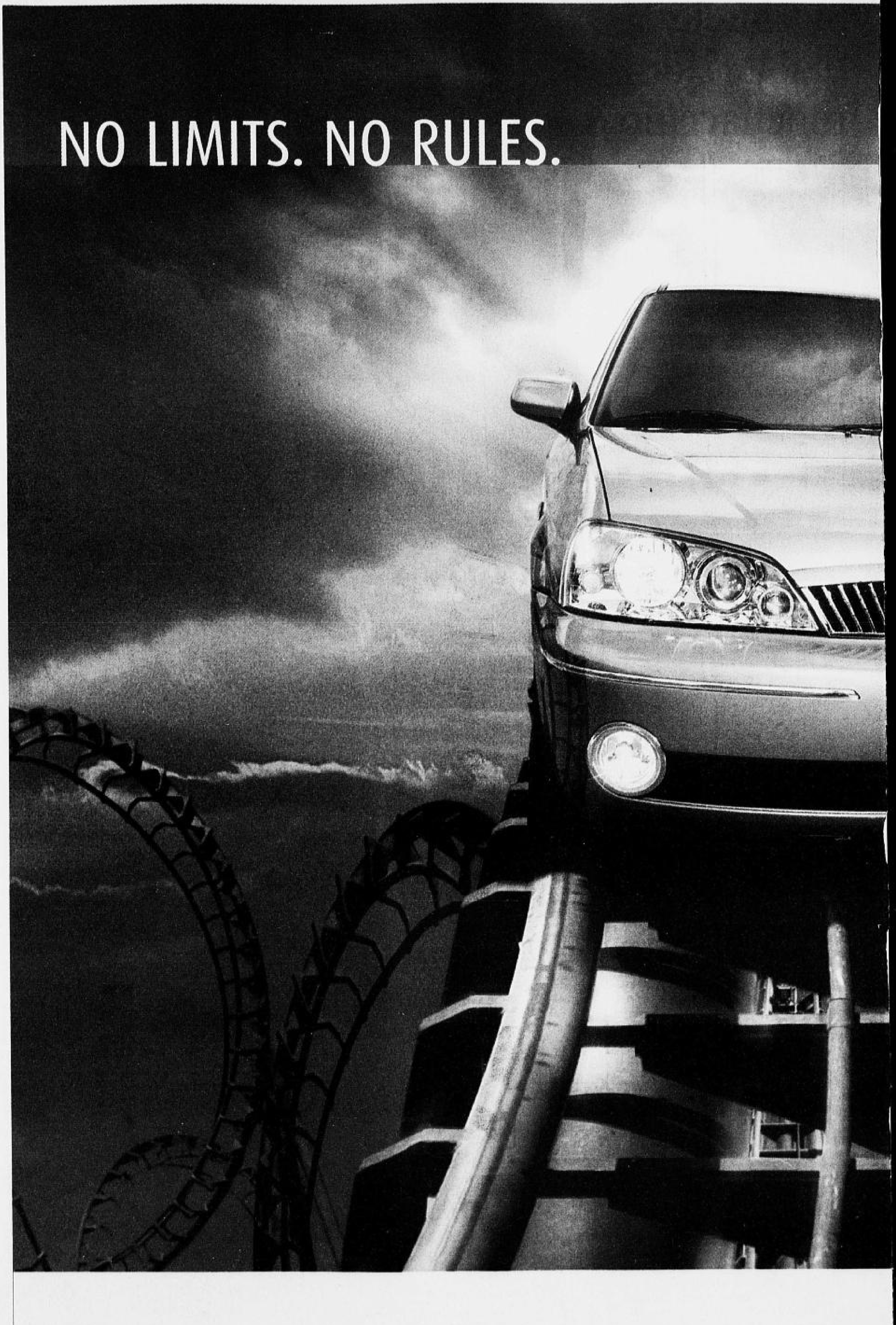
"We have effectively promoted our new machine at this exhibition and have received good inquiries," said Masakuni Shimizu, supervisor of the Aoki Technical Laboratory.

David Chan, managing director of Arburg Pte Ltd., said his company "met up with many serious and potential customers."

Netstal Machinery Ltd. marketing manager Reto Morger observed that the company's product "has been made more known in the Asean market through AseanPlas."

It also extended the customer base of Nissie ASB Pte Ltd., explained its regional sales manager Shigeo Yoshizawa.

A technical seminar by BASF South East Asia on e-commerce, an increasingly popular mode in doing business now, received "very good response," said Martha Brabston, BASF director of engineering plastics.



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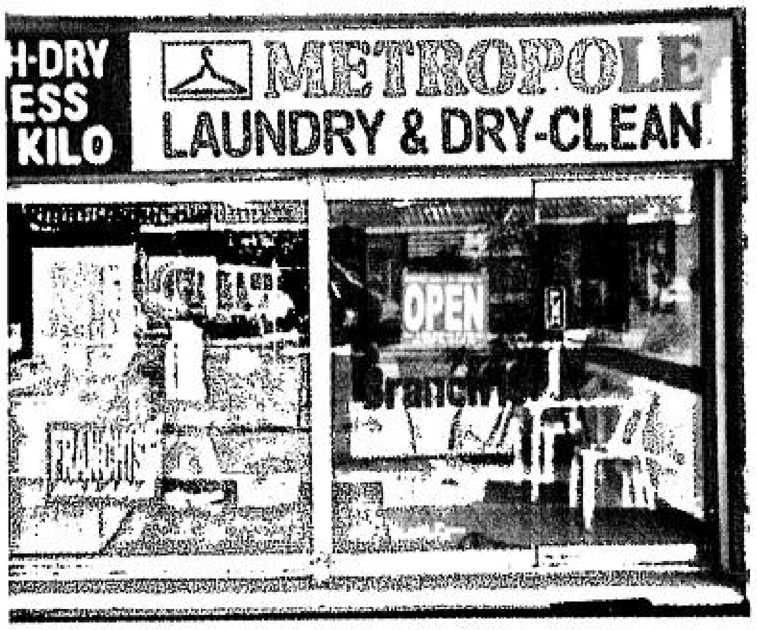
Earning from removing the hassles of laundry



A TYPICAL 30-square-meter Metropole branch

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LAUNDRY is one of the most time-consuming yet necessary chores that everybody needs to do, from students to single professionals; married couples and even senior citizens.

Given a choice, people would rather have their laundry done for them than to do it themselves, which explains the mushrooming of laundry shops all over the metropolis.

From purely dry cleaning services of old, laundry shops these days cater more to everyday laundry requirements, especially since it is becoming more difficult and sometimes more expensive to hire a laundry woman or *lavandera*.

Metropole Laundry and Dry Cleaners Inc. was the first to put up a laundry shop for the retail clients. Set up in 1993, it offers a full range of laundry services to the A-B market, 18 to 36 years old, most of them single professionals and couples married for between one and three years.

METROPOLE puts its washing machines up front to show how clothes are cleaned.

It pioneered the self-service and on-site wash-dry-press laundry convenience to the public.

To hold its own against the influx of laundry firms that are aggressively setting up branches all over Metro Manila and the provinces, it has focused on value added services like special detergents and softeners as well as convenience.

"About 80 percent of the customers we surveyed said the primary motivating factor why they use the laundromat is convenience. This is why our marketing strategy is rooted on making life a little easier for them by eliminating the hassles of doing laundry," says Metropole president Dominador Asis III.

Metropole positions itself as a one-stop shop for all kinds of laundry needs from wash-dry-fold service to ironing, dry cleaning, leather care, premium hanger forms and garment preservation.

Longer hours

It is also open seven days a week to respond to busy lifestyles and operating hours are longer from 7 in the morning to 9 in the evening to catch professionals or working women who drop off their laundry either before or after work.

Metropole's over 32 branches are also located as close to the target market as possible.

Asis added that Metropole does not want to compete with other laundromats by engaging in a price war. Metropole is actually priced above most laundromats at P35 a kilo against P25 to P30 a kilo for the others. This, however, has not stopped the customers from coming.

"It is our opinion that this market segment has the spare income to use premium products and are also very fashionable and would like to care for their fashion statements. We make life easier by providing a worry free alternative to doing laundry. After all our slogan is to be your clothes' best friend," he explained.

Metropole relies more on word-of-mouth and prominent locations of its branches to attract customers, rather than to spend heavily on advertising. It also embarks on regular discount programs like Family Plus and Laundreward to keep its customer base loyal to the stores.

No branding

"Rather than branding we concentrate our efforts and resources on research and development. We have a strong R & D team and we are able to offer the best products and services to our customers. We know what we are doing technically and theoretically and we put these into action," Asis said.

Metropole boasts of its long history and affinity with the laundry business as Metropole is part of a group that has been involved in the laundry business since 1940 when Dominador Asis Sr. personally washed and ironed the clothes of American soldiers.

Six years later, the elder Asis purchased the trailer-mounted laundry equipment left behind by the American troops and became the first to offer mechanized laundry services to the public.

The founder's initial efforts gave birth to laundry firms such as Famous, Prosperity, Manila Steam, Filipinas Wash and Fabricare which are the biggest in the industry, especially in dry cleaning and in servicing industrial or commercial accounts.

Asis continued the tradition of his grandfather and father by building Metropole when he was just in his 20s.

Franchising

Metropole operated its first outlet in Ortigas for five years and correcting all kinds of mistakes before it opened its next nine branches over the next three years. It was only in 1999 that Metropole accepted applications for franchising.

Asis said he purposely set up Metropole branches in different locations such as a subdivision, condominium and roadside to gather experience and to determine the best formula for success.

"I think we are different from other laundry companies because we are a laundry company first and not a franchising firm, we know our business first hand," Asis says.

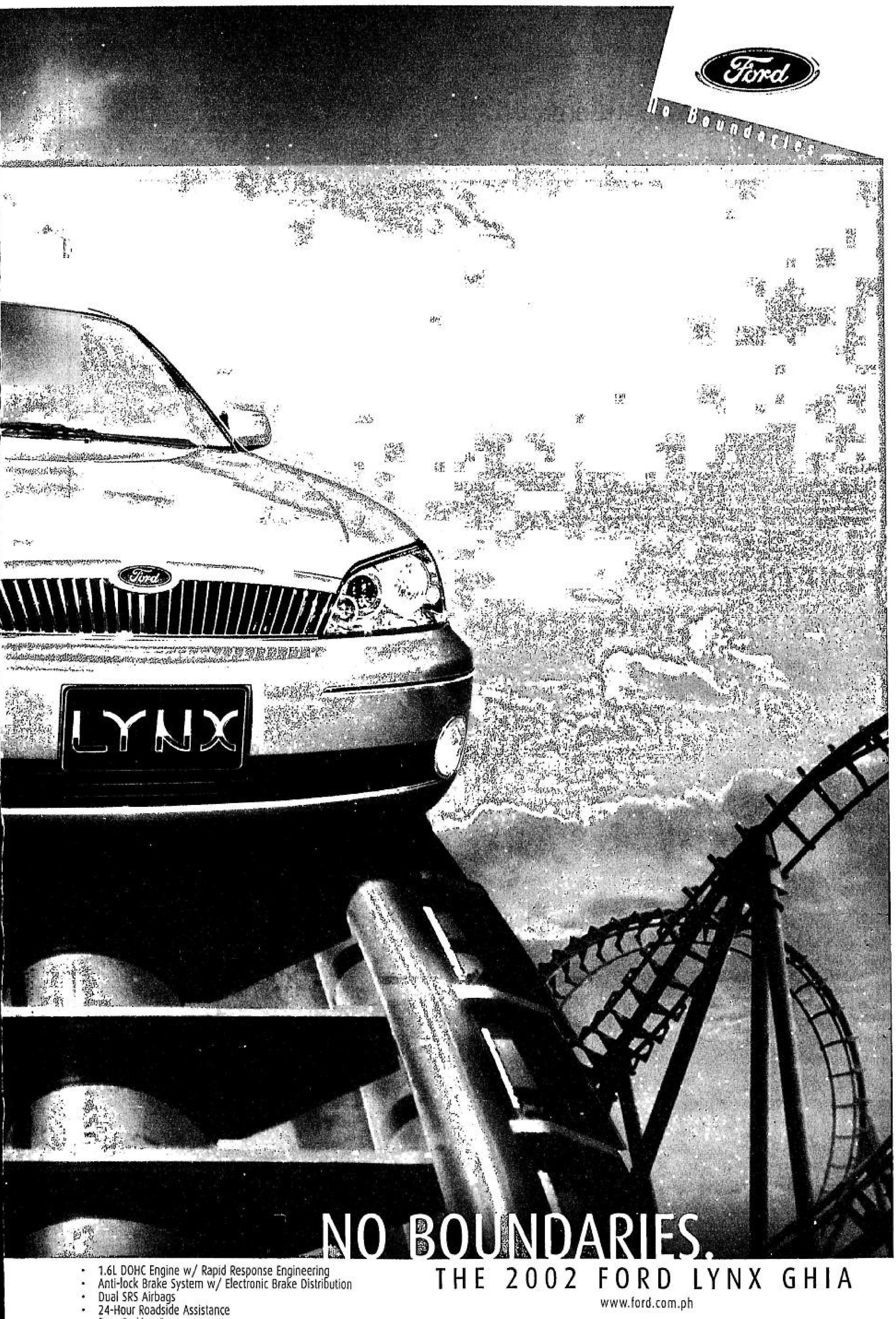
Asis said he did not immediately open the business to franchise applications because they wanted to have the experience, thus, be able to tell franchisees what their prospective problems would be.

"How can we answer questions of franchisees if we do not operate branches ourselves?" Asis says.

Metropole received 200 applications for a franchise when it first opened up in 1999 but it eventually granted franchise contracts to only 10.

It did not award any franchise last year, but it expects to give out franchises this year as the business grows.

Asis expects that the laundry business is here to stay as single-income families are now a thing of the past.



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Summer at Camp John Hay

THE CJH Development Corp. bares its schedule of activities at Camp John Hay to make summer for the whole family truly cool and exciting.

A summer trade fair is being held at Scout Hill ball field until May 2, offering various products like crafts, plants, Baguio souvenir items, and food to provide visitors with a convenient shopping experience. The fair also features a landscape and plant exhibit, wall-climbing challenge and other fun activities.

Free concerts were held at the Scout Hill during the Holy Week, featuring Latino jazz and music for the soul by Conga, Quartet, and Salt & Pepper. These groups also performed at the Golf Clubhouse and the Manor.

On March 31, the Manor conducted an Easter Egg Hunt for children. The highlights of the Easter treat include a clown show and the appearance of a bunny mascot.

Those who wish to have a picnic with their families but lack the time to prepare may avail themselves of the Picnic Basket Package offered by the Le Souffle at the Manor. The Package includes food and drinks and free use of a picnic table at Scout Hill.

Other outdoor recreation facilities available at the Scout Hill include the mini-golf and skating and bicycle rinks, basketball and table tennis. Pony rides are also available at the Shalan ni Kabadjo, a riding circle and bridle path for horses. The eco-trail is now open for those who wish to experience nature at its finest.

The Mile-Hi Center will also be bursting with activities cooked up by facilities like the Commissary, Camp Nike, Dencio's, Angles Billiards and Sportmart.

Various dining facilities at Camp John Hay also offer exciting treats for summer: Lonestar Restaurant, Country Waffles, Scout Hill Snack Bar and Ice Cream Parlor, and Chocola-te de Batirol. The Le Souffle at the Manor offers Special Seafood Menu during the Lenten season, buffet lunch from Fridays to Sundays and daily breakfast buffets.

For more information, call the Camp John Hay marketing and public relations office at (074)442-7902 to 08, or the Manor at (074)446-0231.

MARIE-FRANCE BINONDO CENTER OPENS

Marie-France Bodyline International ushers in the year of the horse with the reopening of its Binondo branch in a bigger and more convenient location at Unit O-1 City Plaza Tower, 439 Plaza del Conde Street, Binondo, Manila. Actress Carmi Martin was the celebrity guest for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Shown is Martin (center) joining in the celebration with (from left) consultants Monaliza Chuahuico, Sharleen Chua, Irma Flores, branch manager Janet Dy-Vergara, consultants Charina Protacio and Evelyn Meriales. Call the new Marie-France Binondo center at 242-2199 to know more about the most advanced, non-invasive slimming technology.

DUMEX RECRUITS ANOTHER MOM

A mother buying Dumex milk for her children inquires from a Dumex representative how her children can participate in the Dumex Search for Brighter, Fitter Champions. Now in its third quarter, the search allows kids in the toddler and pre-school categories (1 to 6 years old) to participate in a friendly competition where kids are evaluated based on physical and mental development milestones expected of their age. The quarterly searches are held at the Little Gym, a noted pre-school development center. The third quarterly search is scheduled on April. Interested mothers are enjoined to enclose entries in an envelope together with P500 worth of Dumex products bought from Mercury Drugstores and drop them in participating Mercury Drugstores in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and Bulacan.

Sing! for students on summer break

SCHOOL is out, but another kind of school is in. To take advantage of the long summer break, students find it worthwhile to enroll in other types of schools where they learn special courses that will help them develop their personalities in a way that the regular schools can't. One such school is the Sing! Vocal Power Institute (SVPI).

Unlike others that offer regular singing lessons, the Institute prides itself as the only one that teaches the "Speech Level Kind of Singing Technique", a method that makes singing as easy, as effortless, and as natural as just talking. Introduced by Doc Erikk O. Cruz III, the "Speech Level" technique has been found very useful by beginners and professional singers alike.

According to Doc Erikk, its effectiveness is such that it is now attracting a lot of students in the United States where Doc Erikk has established a branch of SVPI in Orlando, Florida.

To reach out to those who cannot go to SVPI's main studio along E. Rodriguez, Sr. Avenue, near Balete Drive in Quezon City, the school has been establishing satellite studios in selected schools and other commercial centers in Metro Manila and in the provinces.

As in its Quezon City studio, group as well as individual instructions are also being conducted by highly trained vocal technique coaches who teach the special technique together with the basics of stage performance in 12 sessions. These fun-filled sessions, where students are made to practice what they learn in actual stage conditions, culminate in a recital where they display their newly acquired skills.

School administrators and other entrepreneurs with the essential facilities and equipment (a room and a karaoke system) who wish to tie up with SVPI may get in touch with Juliet Cruz or Haidee Villamiel at 726-3927 or 410-4869.

DUNKIN' DONUTS

'ICE AGE' PUZZLES FROM DUNKIN DONUTS

Lady crew of Dunkin' Donuts show off samples of collectible 'Ice Age' puzzles given free to customers with every dozen donuts purchased until April 15. Choose from any of the four designs named after the movie characters Diego, Sid, Scrat, and Manny. 'Ice Age' is an eye-popping, all-digital animated feature from Twentieth Century Fox Animation.

LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER
PRESENTS
Congeniality

'CONGERIALITY' AWARD

Purita N. Espinosa was crowned recently as Ms. Congeriality 2001 by Dr. Erlinda Garduno and Dr. Jeffrey Castillo (left). Her escort is her son-in-law Dr. Rolando S. Gonzalez (second from left). This contest was sponsored by the Geriatric Center of St. Luke's Medical Center.

PRACTICUM PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Adboard holds orientation for students

THE PRACTICUM Placement Program of the AdBoard's Industry Development Committee (IDC) headed by 2001 IDC chair Alvin Manacsa held its orientation for students who would be trained with the selected advertising agencies of the 4As last Feb. 1 at the AdBoard office. The official turnover of the endorsement letters also took place in the said event. The schools and universities which participated in the outreach program were Polytechnic University of the Philippines, University of the Philippines-Manila, Ateneo de Manila University and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Susan Dimacali, AdBoard chair, rendered the opening remarks for the students. She also shared some helpful hints and advice to the students participating in the practicum placement program. Billy Rockwell, 4As' 2001 director-in-charge for education and manpower committee, presented the background of the ad industry, the AdBoard and its member associations. Oscar Valenzuela, AdBoard's executive director, also shared some points regarding the role and functions of the AdBoard. Gigi Rodriguez turned over the endorsement letters to 4As representative Rockwell.

The outreach program is divided into two batches. The first batch of practicumers is for the second semester, where students would have to complete 100 hours of training in the advertising agencies. The other batch is for summer, where the students here will also have to complete 100 hours of training with the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas.

STUDENTS from PUP, Ateneo, UP-Manila, Lyceum of the Philippines, and PLM who participated in the AdBoard's Student Practicum Placement Program are shown with Alvin Manacsa, chair of the program, Gigi Rodriguez, AdBoard treasurer, Susan Dimacali, chair, Billy Rockwell, 2001 4As director-in-charge for manpower and education committee, Oscar Valenzuela, executive director, and Jho Gonzaga, committee coordinator.

ADVERT
OF THE

AT THE TURNOVER of the endorsement letter to 4As this February, from left, Alvin Manacsa, Gigi Rodriguez, Susan Dimacali, Billy Rockwell, and Oscar Valenzuela were on hand.

BITS Clips

PETS for incoming presidents-elect

DISTRICT GOVERNOR-elect Efren O. de Guzman of Rotary International District 3800 announces that the presidents-elect training seminar (PETS) will be held on April 6 and 7 at the MML Development Center at Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City. IPP Luz N. Cotoco of the Rotary Club of Ortigas Center has been appointed chair and the host club, respectively, of PETS 2002. The training seminar is a mandatory requirement of Rotary International for all incoming presidents and district officers for RY 2002-2003. Host club Rotary Club of Ortigas Center acknowledges the support of San Miguel Corp., Linden Suites and Rustans Commercial Corp.

Ateneo honor grad

ANNE Angelica Cervantes Sy recently graduated with a degree in BS Communications Technology Management, cum laude, from the Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. She is the eldest of four children of Ricky and Grace Sy of Sherwood Heights, Multinational Village, Parañaque City.

'Kuko'g Kubal' at Molina Hall

THE ARTS Council of Cebu, in cooperation with Philippine Women's University Systems, presents "Kuko'g Kubal," a classical guitar concert featuring 21-year-old Julius M. Mocorro on April 6, Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at the Molina Hall Basement I. He will be playing a combination of classical and contemporary pieces by Alonso Mudarra, Sylvius Leopold Weiss, Fernando Sor, Isaac Albeniz, Vivaldi, Cabalse, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Andrew York and Leo Brouwer. Julius was one of the seven winners in the 3rd Hong Kong Guitar Competition in March 2000. Molina Hall is located at Equitable PCI Bank Tower 2, Makati Avenue corner H.V. de la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. "Kuko'g Kubal" (Visayan for nail and callous) is also supported by Dulaang Talyer. For inquiries, text 09202256349.

'Ground Zero' exhibit

THE US Embassy, in cooperation with the Museum of the City of New York, is sponsoring "After September 11: Images From Ground Zero," a photo exhibit highlighting the horror and heroism of September 11. The exhibit is on a world tour, and the Philippines is among the first of 20 countries to host the show. Featuring 27 photos taken by New York landscape photographer Joel Meyerowitz, the exhibit travels from Manila to Cebu. Up to April 2, the exhibit was held at the Glorietta 4 Lobby, Ayala Center, Makati City. From April 4 to 20, the exhibit will be held at the Food and Entertainment Center of Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City. For more information, call the US Embassy cultural affairs officer at 523-1001 ext. 2525.

More office space, but again, takers are few

By Raul C. Dancel

DESPITE threats of a recession in the United States and weak demand locally, property developers opened more office space in Makati and Ortigas last year. But there were very few takers.

A survey done by FPDSavills Philippines Inc. showed that there were 9 percent more usable office space in Makati and Ortigas last year than in 2000. The country's top business districts had about 3.68 million square meters of office space in 2001 from 3.38 million square meters in 2000.

More "Grade A" office buildings were built in 2001, adding about 306,419 square meters. These "new kids" on the building bloc are Robinson's Summit Center, PBCom Tower, GT Tower and RCBC Plaza in Makati, and One San Miguel Avenue in Ortigas.

Higher vacancy

With the generally subdued business environment, however, consolidated take-up for all office grades in Makati fell 45 percent to 123,654 square meters in 2001 from 222,917 square meters in 2000.

Office space take-up in Ortigas, on the other hand, went up slightly to 57,597 square meters from 54,232 square meters during the same period.

Overall, however, office space take-up in both Makati and Ortigas went down 35 percent last year to 181,251 square meters.

Companies involved in financial intermediation, real estate, rental, transportation and storage, manufacturing, and wholesale and retail activities continue to be the main movers to office buildings.

FPDSavills estimates that with no guarantee of robust growth this year, office space vacancy will remain a problem for property developers.

It sees the vacancy rate rising slightly to 28 percent this year from last year's 27 percent. This means about three offices out of 10 are likely to remain unoccupied.

Flight to quality

There was a notable "flight-to-quality" trend last year.

"Tenants of lower grade buildings, as well as new companies, preferred to move to newer developments to capitalize on state-of-the-art facilities, better location and accessibility, and lower rental rates and incentives," FPDSavills said in its report.

According to its survey, 66 percent of transactions involving office space in Makati and Ortigas last year were all in the grade "A" sector.

Despite renovations among lower grade office buildings, tenants are seen continuing to move to prime office spaces in Makati and Ortigas.

Critical issue

The average rent for an office space in Makati is seen at P400 per square meter this year. An office space in Ortigas, meanwhile, will go for about P250 per square meter.

Offices in Makati are still expected to command a premium over those in Ortigas, averaging P50,000 per square meter against P38,000 per square meter.

"Supply side factors will remain the critical issue, while demand is forecast to remain weak, which will put downward pressure on prices," FPDSavills said.

"The supply situation will be further accentuated by the completion of the commercial projects in existing and emerging urban developments, particularly in the so-called information technology parks which will keep prices in main business districts at bay and make upward price movements a remote possibility," it said.

Order of the day

Consolidation is the order of the day as rents and prices continue to soften, according to FPDSavills.

Yields are expected to decline or remain flat, which may make investments in commercial property unattractive in the short to medium term and will keep investors away from this sector.

FPDSavills remains cautious, as it forecasts a further decline in average rents and capital values in the range of 10 to 15 percent.

FPDSavills is the trading name for the principal property services subsidiaries of Savills Plc., a UK company listed on the London Stock Exchange. Founded in 1855, the business is one of the leading firms of international property consultants and real estate agents in the world.

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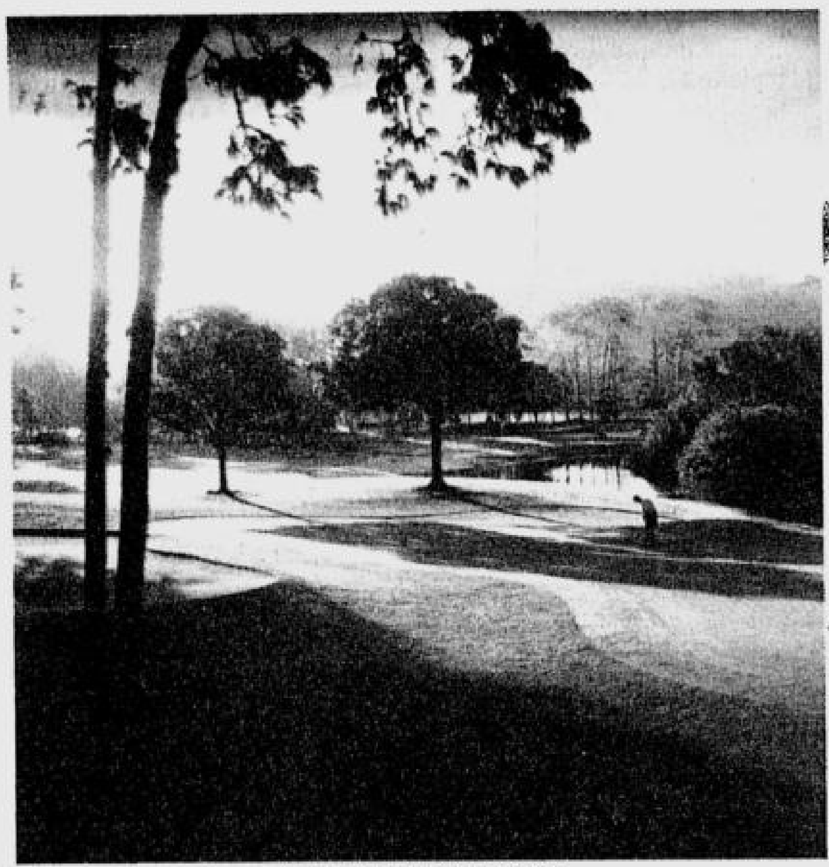
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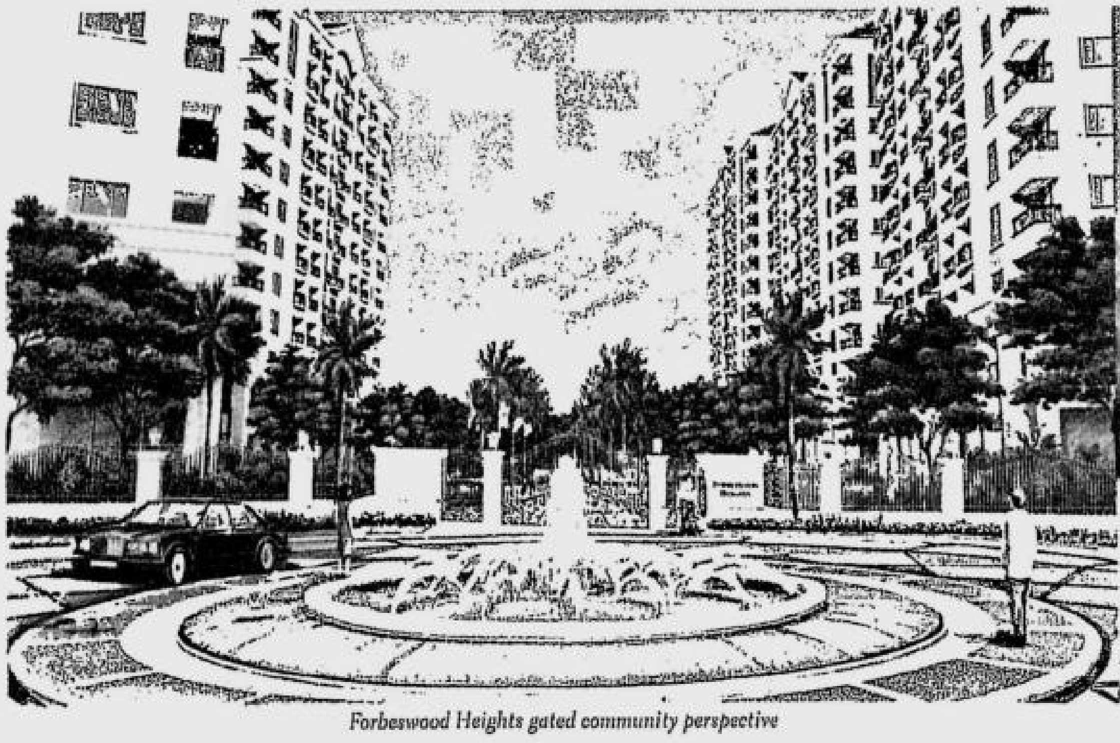
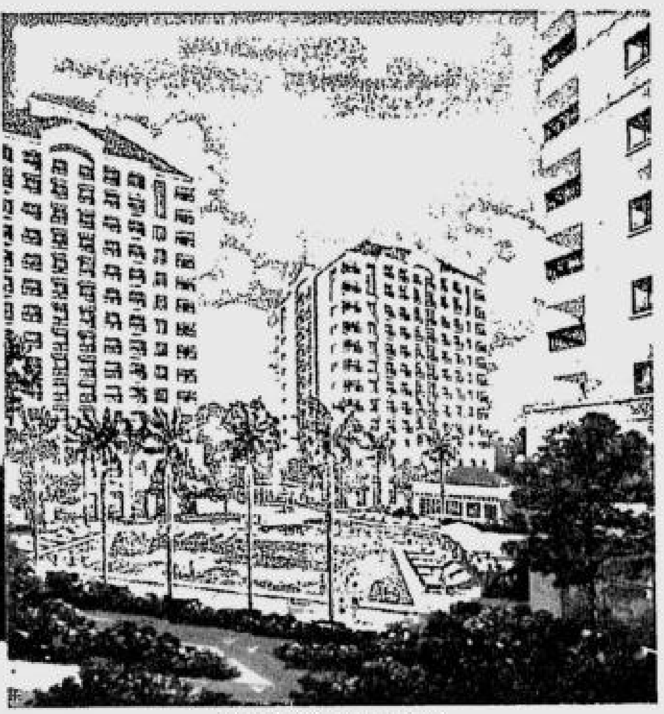

Forbeswood Heights gated community perspective

Village town center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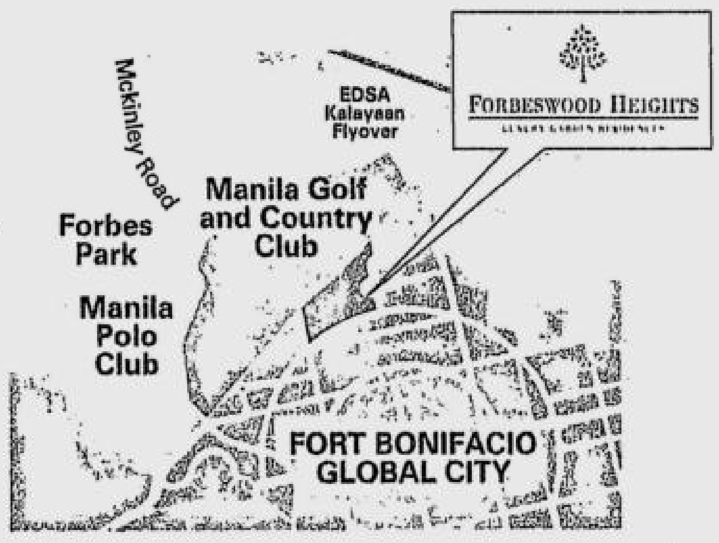
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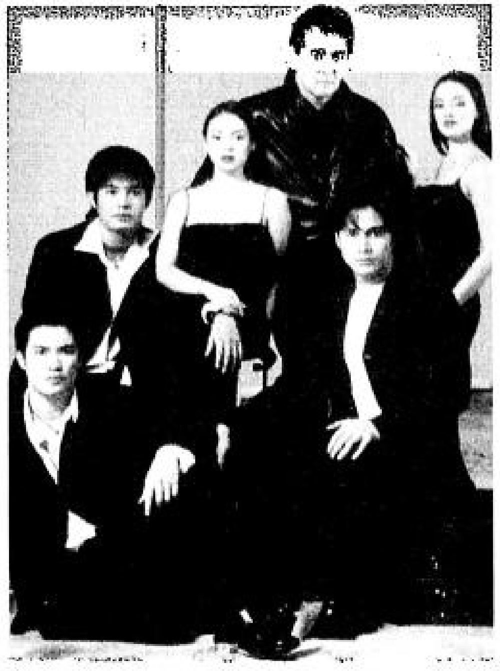

THE MAGAZINE cover photo shoot of ABS-CBN top stars, with Talent Center head Johnny Manahan, held last February, would turn out to be Rico Yan's last with his colleagues. Taken to mark Manahan's birthday, this photograph will not appear as is on the cover of Metro's May issue.

Too much, too soon

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

EVEN in his dark blue coffin, **Rico** looked very handsome: hair tousled and gelled into wisps just right, skin a healthy pink, his body so dapper in dove gray pinstriped suit, lavender shirt and tie. Except for those eyes shut tight, he didn't look dead at all.

I've always thought that Rico Yan was handsomer in person than in pictures.

Pictures didn't do him full justice. The few times I'd see him in our shoots, I'd give him a second glance and realize that he was actually taller (5' 8½") than I thought and so buff.

The sight of Rico lying in state was not one to give you nightmares, as looking at the usual dead would. In fact, as we walked past the casket, my boss **Ernie Lopez** had to remind me not to exclaim *"Ang guapo,"* in deference to the atmosphere, and our editor **Carlo Tadiar** to refrain from fashion-annotating the wardrobe.

Instead the sight left you pensive, even amid the elaborate logistics and relentless activity in the wake. ABS-CBN's **Lawrence Tan**, in charge of helping Rico's family in the arrangements, was visibly exhausted although in good temper. Despite the long queues outside, the wake was somber and incredibly, to an extent, seemed private that Monday night. Rico's parents looked calm and were solicitous. His father thanked Ernie for the help ABS-CBN gave in bringing the body back to Manila.

But even amid this social setting, you turned pensive, reflecting about the lives of young stars like Rico. It was, it is and will always be a sad-happy life, an arduous-glamorous life, the degrees of which non-star lives like ours could never approximate.

Except for the usual photo sessions, I didn't encounter Rico as I did a few ABS stars. Although I work in the ABS-CBN magazines, I am no authority on show-biz lives, and will never be. But each encounter I've had with these stars left me an insight or two about the unique lives they live—lives their fans live vicariously, lives we non-fans are curious about, albeit secretly, the gossip about which we pick up if only to spice up our lunches.

What struck me each time I chatted with them was their drive—to earn buckets of money, to acquire possessions, to provide for their families and their future, to better themselves or at least their skills, be it their craft or hobbies and sports—in short, the drive to make it. It's a drive the intensity of which I

TOO/ p.D5

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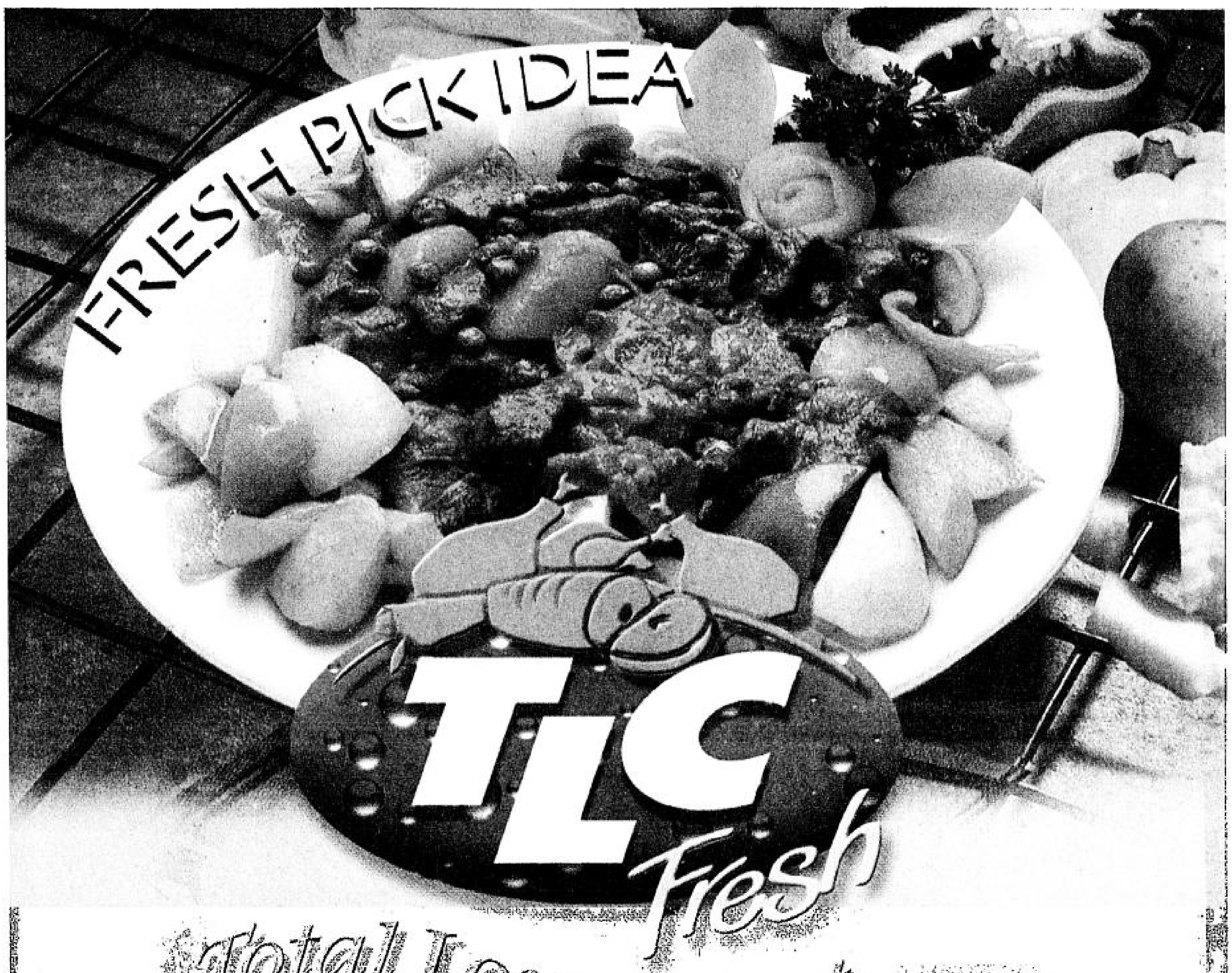

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2 tbsp.	cooking oil
1 tbsp.	crushed garlic
1 1/2 cup	chopped onion
1 pc.	beef bouillon cube
2 cups	water
1 small can	tomato sauce
1 small can	pineapple juice
2 cans	liver spread
1/4 cup	bread crumbs
1 can	tomato paste
2 pcs.	potatoes, quartered
2 tbsp.	worcestershire sauce
1/2 cup	green olives
1 pc.	red bell pepper, quartered
1 small can	green peas
3-5 pcs.	sili labuyo (optional)
1 pc.	carrot (optional)

Procedure:

Marinate sliced beef in soy sauce and pepper for one hour. Heat oil in pan, sauté garlic, onions and beef. Add two cups water and beef cube. Let mixture simmer until meat is tender and water reduced. Add tomato sauce, pineapple juice and tomato paste. Add liver spread and bread crumbs. Add potatoes, worcestershire sauce, olives, red bell pepper and siling labuyo. Serve hot.

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The road trip to Manila hell

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

IF, by chance, you happen to live in any of the villages that use the service road between Sucat and Alabang, then you must be in big trouble. There are days when it takes close to an hour to get from the gate of your enclave to the Sucat Interchange and straight into the more constipated South Expressway. Unless you use the road at the wee hours of dawn or on Good Friday, you can never estimate the amount of time it will take you to get from there to anywhere.

All it takes is the gentlest rain to transform a cute puddle to knee-deep high murk in front of Dulcinea Restaurant on Tomas Morato Avenue, QC. As a matter of fact, this portion of the City of the Stars does not have exclusive rights to this natural phenomenon: I heard there are certain residences in San Juan City that already have hooks lined up their walls in preparation for the rainy season. When water starts pouring from the heavens, these residents have adapted to their environment so much so that they only have to hook up their chairs, tables, dressers and even grandmothers before the floodwaters start rushing into the privacy of their abodes. They must have taken their essential lessons from no less than Noah.

Oh, these are the little inconveniences in having to deal with life in our islands. Somehow, the tendency to burst out into a litany of complaints has become such a daily agenda that it has ceased from being amusing, much less cute. Even with expressions of dismay leading to the first steps of suicide (self-hair pulling, uncontrollable rise of blood pressure, excellence in muttering exotic profanities under one's breath), nothing changes.

I do remember the time—during those younger and more vulnerable days—when being a La Sallite meant knowing how to maneuver one's self to the thigh-high floods that blossom in front of the university. Or those very fond memories of having to walk down Vito Cruz Street, trailing Rizal Memorial Coliseum holding one's shoes and rushing to catch your first class with water rushing in like you were shooting the rapids. But that was a long time ago. There were trees on Taft Avenue then, not the spooky Blade Runner-like mammoth called the LRT.

The waters may have ceased rising on Taft Avenue, but then they have become special attractions elsewhere, including certain parts of Edsa, Roxas Boulevard and, of course, Araneta Avenue. You'd expect that after all this time, when the Department of Whatever has failed to come up with a viable solution to a perennial problem, they would have fielded out gondolas or sold amphibian tanks instead of SUVs.

Then there is, of course, the case of our legendary traffic. In a culture where traffic rules are left to the imagination of each and every individual sitting behind a wheel, the chaos that takes place every rush hour has become a daily ritual. In a land where public buses are such bullies and jeepneys swivel through the midst with the daredevil courage of a gymnast, every journey out on the road turns out to be a unique adventure.

Distinction

I hold the distinction of being one of the very few individuals I know who does not know how to drive. Not that I did not try, you see. Again, in my younger and more impressionable years, I enroled in a driving school *kasi kailangan* and ended up almost killing the rest of the students aboard that private jeep they use in the dinky driving school where my father enroled me.

Look, I can't even dance the boogie well and, during the heyday of the swing, I almost broke a young lady's forearm to the tune of Donna Summer's "Last Dance." Now how can anyone expect me to have the perfect coordination to change gears (with my hands) and step on the pedal, brake and gas with my two feet?

To this day, I hold the record of being the only student expelled from that driving school. However, I do not want to be held personally responsible for the life-long traumatic experience of my fellow students/passengers, and the near-nervous breakdown of that driving instructor.

Even then I had this nervous tendency to step on the gas—then change gears while shutting my eyes tight whenever a jeepney dared to go nearer than 2 ft from both sides of the vehicle I was maneuvering.

So now I am a slave to my driver. And my driver—through very, very nice and definitely very, very patient—has this thing for honking the horns. Frankly, I hate it. I hate it when he uses all his human muscles on pressing on the car horn to express: a) anger, b) delight or c) need while we are on the road. He honks when another vehicle cuts him. He honks when another vehicle overtakes him. He honks when the car in front of him does not move one millisecond after the traffic light changes. He honks when he sees an undesirable face. He honks just to remind himself he is driving. I sometimes fear my dear driver is suffering from a Noise Barrage Complex. He honks to remind the world he exists.

But since my almost-criminal career in flunking driving school, I am held hostage by the biorhythm of my driver. I can only say he is God's way of testing my patience. I remember the time he got very, very sick and I ended up with a sub who did not know how to get from Makati to QC.

One time, after an extremely backbreaking workday, he followed another driver's instructions of driving down Araneta Avenue, until we ended up in La Loma instead of QC. Examining the strange surroundings outside my car, I finally tapped his shoulder and said: "*Hijo*, I think we are going the wrong way. *Bakit puro litsunan na ang nakikita ko dito*?"

However, he did not honk the horn even once. He did not even know where the horn was located.

One advantage of having to tread a really bleak economy is that you don't get the same mind-smashing traffic jams characteristic of the Christmas season. That is a lovely time when you get to sample all the varieties of car horns, as if they were the ding-dong bells that deck the halls with boughs of holly. However, for the past two Christmases, things have changed. Breezing through the mall districts of Makati, Ortigas and Pasig, one feels extremely depressed for the same reasons that one feels daily depression: *bakit walang* traffic?

When I got an overload of an assortment of every available flavor and aroma of soaps and candles last Yuletide Season, I understood why. Nobody was shopping—they were busy wrapping fragrant lye and wax.

Dead pedestrian

Being inside the car or any form of public transport is not the only way to challenge one's survival skills. It is so much easier to get killed being a pedestrian. I have this really cute story: Once upon a summer, a friend of a friend finally decided to cross the Pacific to get to know her Inang Bayan better. Raised in the United States since she was a pickaninny three years of age, she landed on our shores bursting with uncontrollable enthusiasm to immerse herself in the Mother Culture she had known only as weekly servings of *adobo* and *lumpia* or all the OPM cassettes her relatives sent her.

Anyway, this excitable lass did not know any basic survival skills of the streets of Manila. She was of some misguided belief that pedestrian lanes in this part of world meant anything. In her second home, cars actually stopped when any being—whether walking on twos or fours—crossed the road. She was so sure that when she used the appointed lane, cars, taxis, buses and jeepneys would have the decency to let her pass.

Of course, one can assume the outcome of this story. The poor thing almost returned to her home in Orange County as an ethereal being. A grand total of two jeepneys and three cars almost terminated her earthly existence as she screamed, ran and almost dropped her three Shoemart shopping bags full of bamboo place mats, embroidered napkins, *puca* shell and *ipil* necklaces and miniature tin jeepney souvenirs.

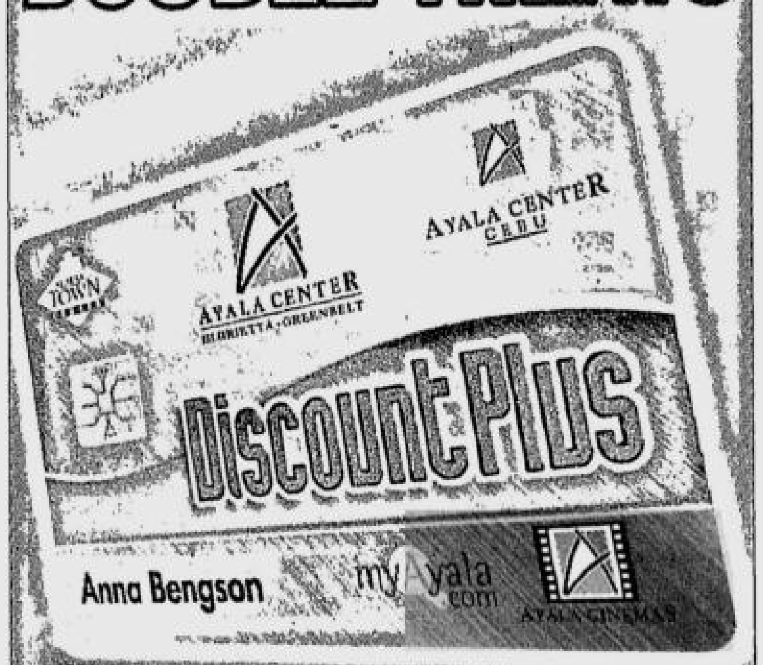
Consoling the nervous wreck, a friend of mine told her: "You see, here in Manila, when the traffic light turns red, it does not mean 'stop.' It means, *baka* you want to stop... When it turns yellow, it means 'faster, faster'... and when it lits up green, it's 'go! go! go!' And just one other thing: nobody gives a f—k about living creatures crossing roads."

The poor girl merely wept then secretly sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

That's why *patintero* should become the national sport. Anyone who grew up in Manila develops the inherent skill of outmaneuvering anything on wheels if you want to go on with your daily existence.

Oh, we will never run out of road stories. There is this issue about smoke belchers or Why Are You Screwing Up My Lungs? Or those cell phone snatchers who just happen to swoop down anyone preoccupied with texting near an open window of a vehicle caught in a jam. Or what about all those street hawkers selling everything from anorexic-looking roses, boiled peanuts, flannel rags, mineral water, strawberries... or even condoms to a population bored out of their wits and stuck in urban limbo.

But, as I said, after a while, you realize there is no point in complaining. You simply have to accept and adapt. You concede it has got something to do with the culture. *Eh, gano'n 'yon, eh!*



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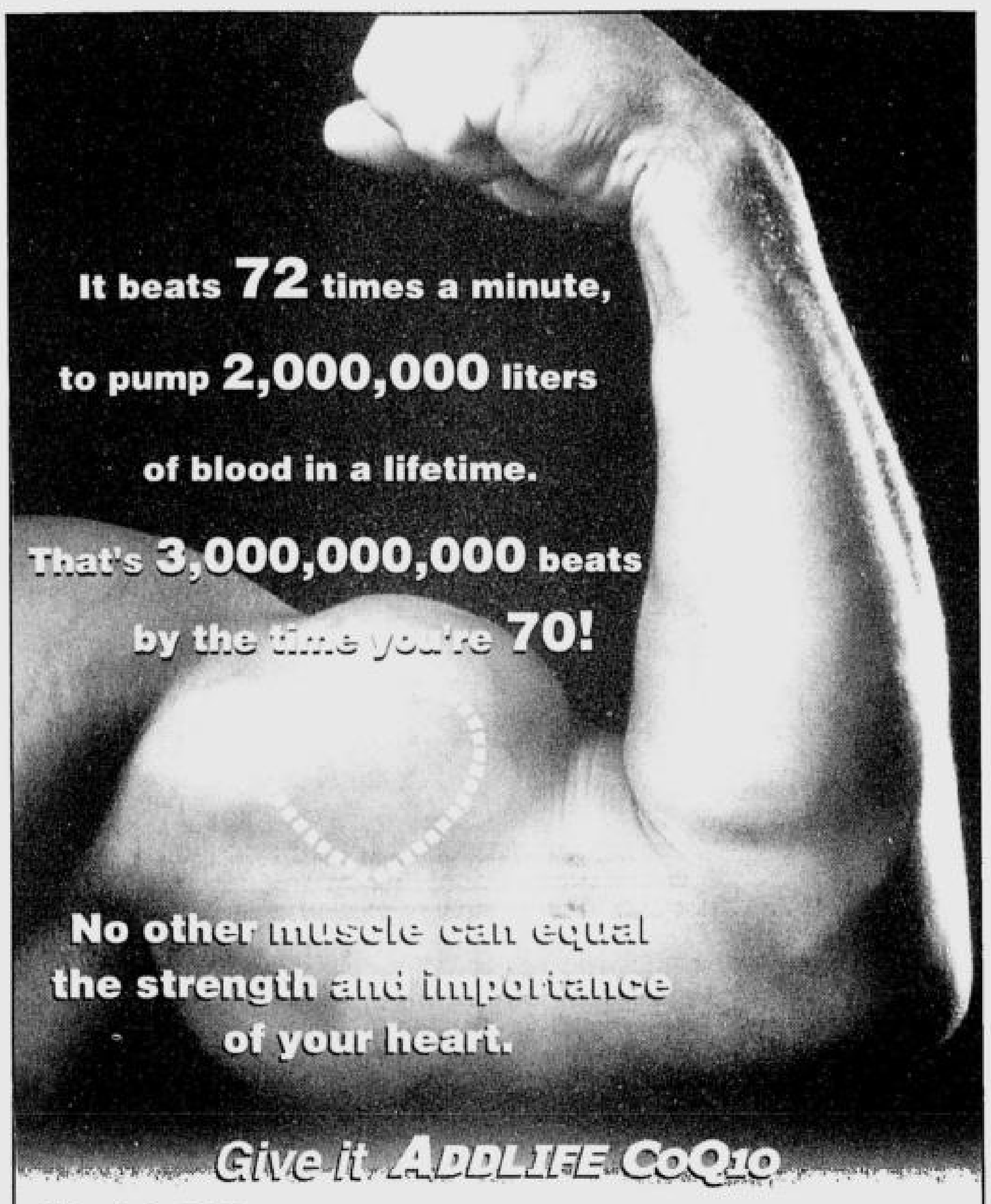
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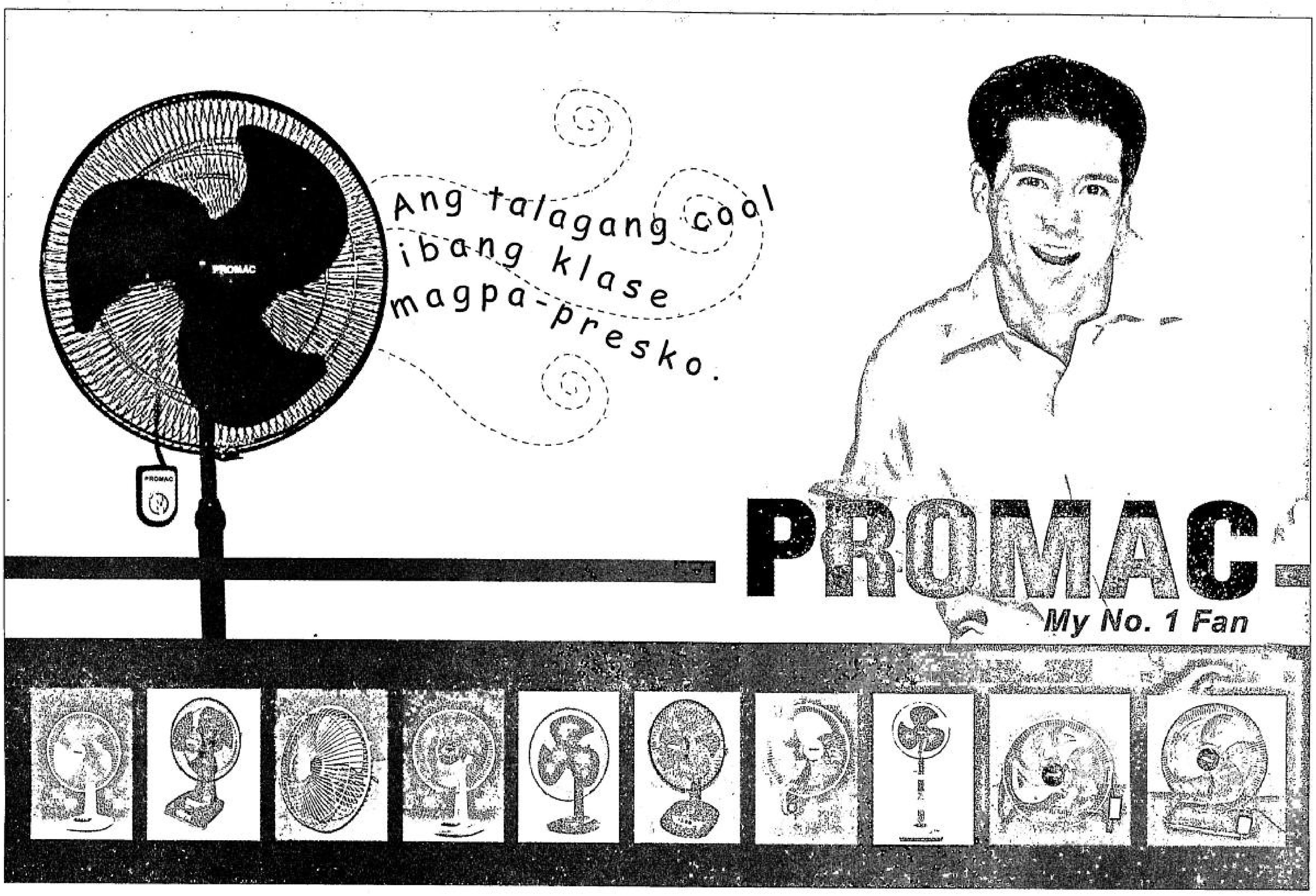
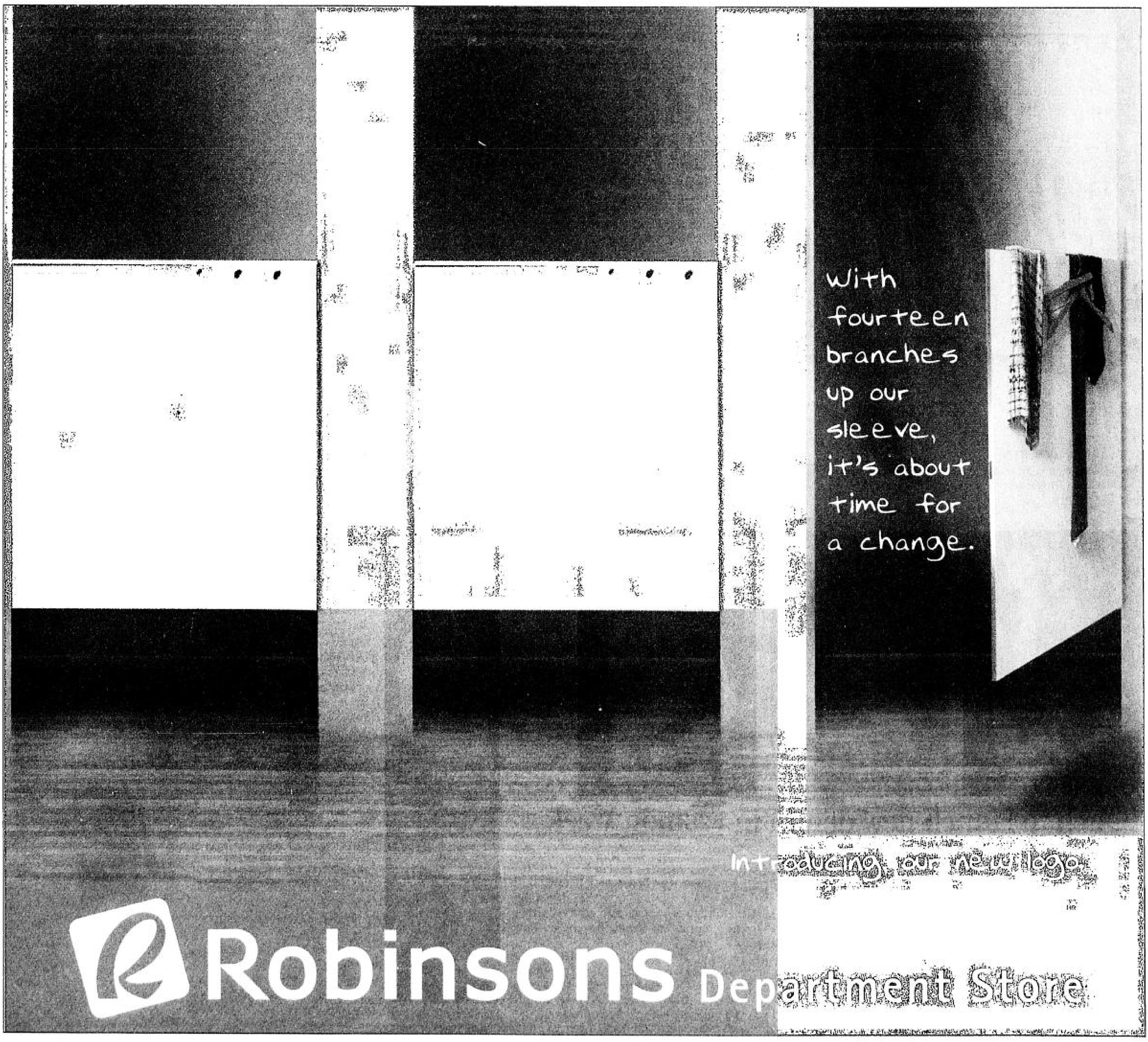
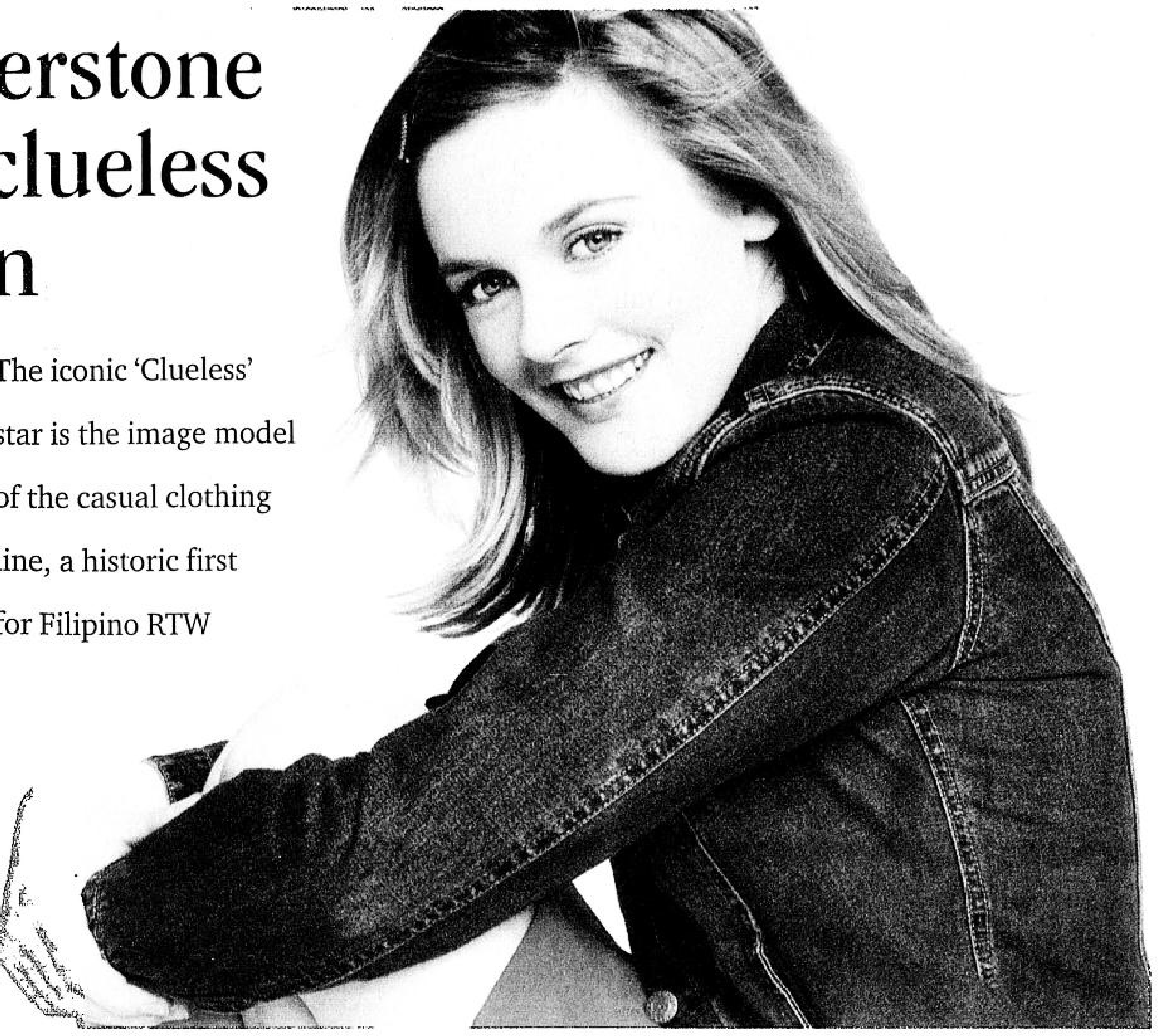

Ang talagang cool
ibang klase
magpa-presko.
PROMAC
PROMAC
PROMAC
My No. 1 Fan


With
fourteen
branches
up our
sleeve,
it's about
time for
a change.
Introducing our new logo.
Robinsons Department Store

Alicia Silverstone is hardly clueless on fashion

By Marge C. Enriquez

The iconic 'Clueless' star is the image model of the casual clothing line, a historic first for Filipino RTW



SIX years ago, when entrepreneur Gonzalo Roque III was watching "Clueless," he had a vision of using the star, Alicia Silverstone, as image model of Kamiseta.

With sheer determination and luck, Roque met Silverstone's agent, sent the actress Kamiseta's clothes, its packaging and previous campaign, and got the nod.

By using a young Hollywood actress as its signature model, the casual clothing line for the *jeunne fille* has scored a first in local ready-to-wear history. Not only that, this is also Silverstone's first endorsement. The actress has been wooed by brands all over the world and even turned down a million-dollar offer in favor of a Filipino label.

What made Kamiseta tick to Silverstone? And, to what extent will she have a pull on Filipino consumers?

Immediate liking

Silverstone gets a product endorsement proposal almost every week. When she saw Kamiseta's colorful packaging and its contents, naturally, she immediately liked what she saw. An agreement, which included such conditions as no animal products and free clothes, was signed.

Her agent got the best creative team for the pictorial, led by photographer Paul Westlake, makeup artist Kim Carillo (who does Madonna), hairdresser Mitch Barry and stylist Nathalie.

Last March, Roque and his wife Cristina, who designs Kamiseta, flew to New York for the pictorial. The concept was straightforward—Silverstone sporting classic, casual looks. She arrived promptly in the studio and won the Roques with her charm.

Silverstone had several things in common with Kamiseta's recent image models China and Mai-Mai Cojuangco. Like her Filipina counterparts, she comes from a well-to-do family. If the Kamiseta girls grew up in Forbes Park, she was raised in Hillsborough, the exclusive district south of San Francisco.

Her role as Cher, the wealthy, well-dressed and spoiled brat with a big heart in "Clueless" seemed tailor-made for her. After winning accolades, she formed her production company, First Kiss, and produced "Excess Baggage," with Columbia Pictures. She also appeared as Batgirl in "Batman and Robin," "Blast from the Past" and "Love's Labor's Lost."

As an executive producer of the animated television series "Braceface," she received an Emmy nomination.

She is now on Broadway in "The Graduate," performing with Kathleen Turner and Jason Biggs.

During the pictorial, Alicia talked about her passions, such as animal activism and environmental preservation. Roque hosted a vegan lunch during the pictorial. True to her conviction of avoiding wastage, she got all the leftovers for her charity—and her pets.

After the shoot, she invited the Roques to the critics' night of "The Graduate."

The pictorial for Kamiseta's new campaign cost Roque an arm and leg. It was more expensive than last year's campaign which included a pictorial for the billboards and print ads and a television commercial that were both shot in Florence, Italy.

Added value

Why use a Hollywood celebrity to be a spokesperson for basic T-shirts and slacks?

For one, the colonial mentality still exists. If a Hollywood actress, who has got fashion savvy, wears a Filipino label, then the product must be of international standard. That is a strategy in adding perceived value to the Filipino consumer.

Roque explains that Silverstone's endorsement is part of Kamiseta's long-term goal, which is to project a global image.

"With this campaign, we have proven that the Filipino can be truly world-class," he says.

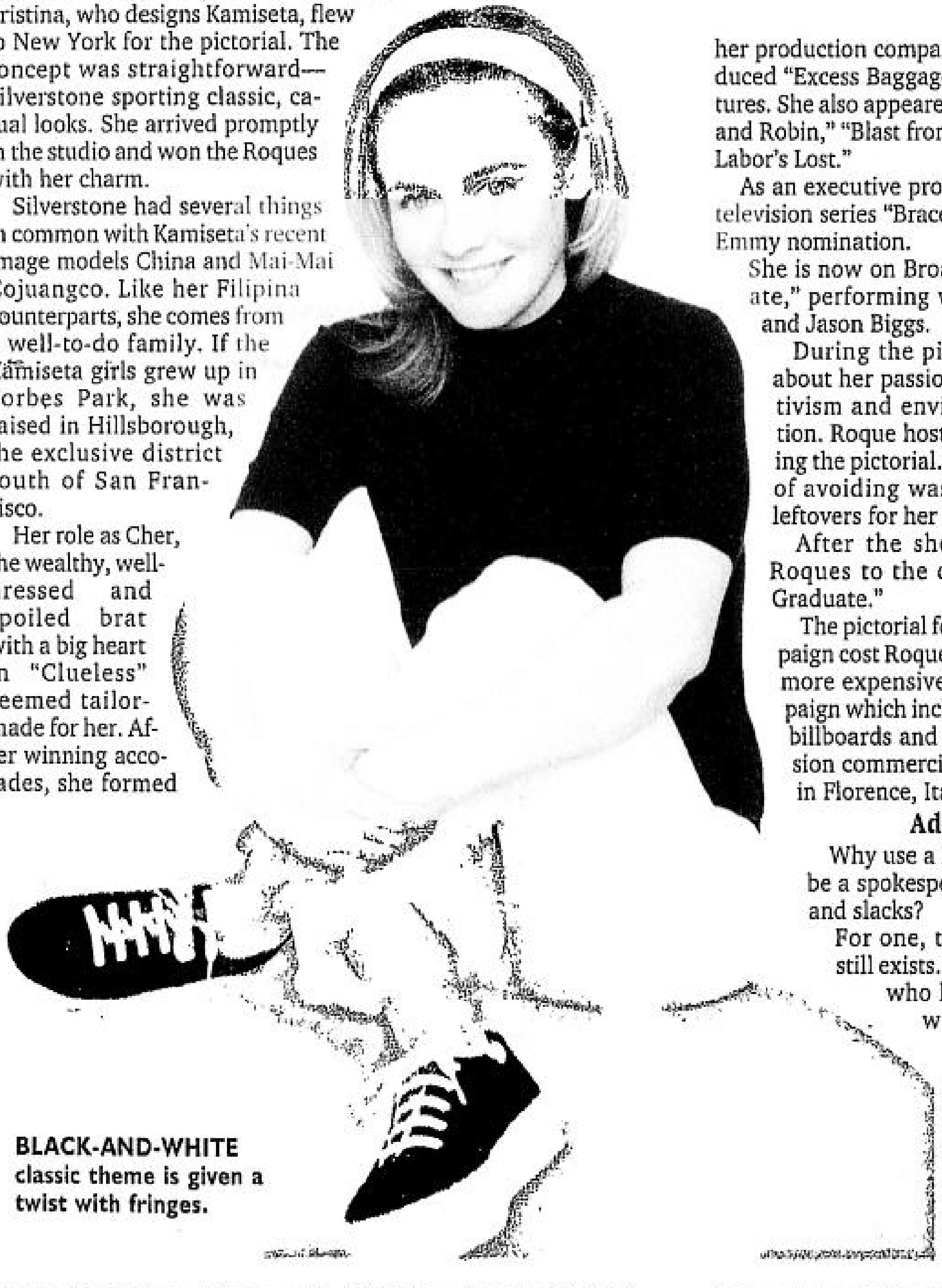
And, even without public relations machinery and press coverage, Kamiseta's sales have been flourishing. Kamiseta's sales in the first quarter has posted a 30-percent increase over last year's. Its economic success is attributed to the high quality of the fabrics and components and constant innovation. The clothes are made in the Philippines, although big volume apparels are manufactured overseas. The styles are basic, but Kamiseta keeps producing variations.

"We don't repeat our styles. Each line, there's something new," says Roque. Once when one of the cash registers broke down, customers patiently waited in long queues instead of leaving the store, he recalls. They knew that if they came back, the items would no longer be on the shelves or racks.

The dead stock or leftover is meager. During sales periods, everything is wiped out in three days.

The store is designed in such a way that when the customer gets in, she gets excited and bewildered by the overload of visual merchandise. "I saw that in my wife. Whenever she goes shopping abroad, she gets astonished. I tried to understand why," says Roque.

These elements that send thrills to a Kamiseta customer must have also gotten Alicia Silverstone's handshake.



BLACK-AND-WHITE classic theme is given a twist with fringes.

Slip into the bikini triangle

FILIPINAS get more daring as they demand for triangle bikini tops, bandeaus and underwire tops. Bikini bottoms ride low on the waist. Some come with side strings or in boy leg cuts. These come in colorful ensembles executed in patchwork, tie-dye, crochet or adorned with graphic prints and beads, and can be paired with shorts, jeans and sarongs.

Accessories complete the summer look—fabric totes, natural fibers and durable plastic. Beachwear would not be complete without the requisite sandals embellished with beads.

Visit the U store at Rustan's Makati and Alabang.

ASSUNTA de Rossi, image model of Herbench underwear

Borgy Manotoc models Bench Overhauled.

Lucy Torres-Gomez for Herbench

Bench to launch new denim in Fashion Week

BENCH joins Fashion Week 2002, an annual event presenting major retailers and Filipino designers.

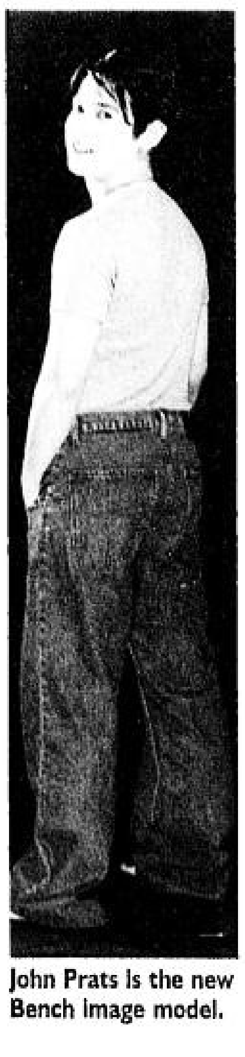
Bench is participating in full force. Celebrities such as Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres, Jomari Yllana, Wendell Ramos, Antonio Aquitana, Assunta de Rossi, Amanda Griffin, Marc Nelson, John Hall, John Pratts, Robby Mananquil and Mickey Randall are expected to grace the show.

The show is in support of the Professional Model's Association of the Phils. (PMAP). There will be an exhibit of both PMAP's models from the '80s until today and Overhauled, Bench's new line of denims.

Bench Overhauled denim is the new face of denim. It is the reinvention of quality denims brought about by the collaboration of creativity and technology to yield a perfect pair of denim that gives utmost comfort.

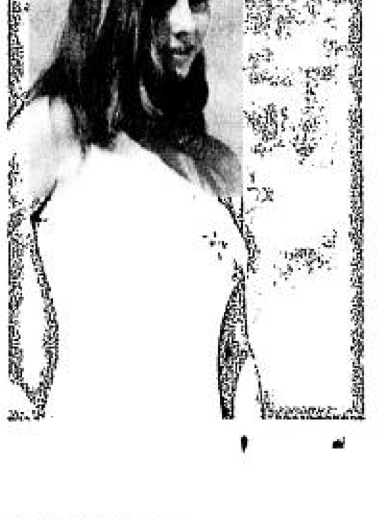
What set it apart from the basic denims are the single topstitched yoke darts and single topstitched back rise. The new denim has 1/16" single topstitched back pocket, 3/8" single topstitch from the edge of the scoop pocket and 1/8" double topstitch on the fly that give it a new look.

"Overhauled. The Bench Denim Show" is on April 10, 6 p.m., at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center Makati. Fashion Week is presented by Runway Productions and Cal Carrie's Modeling Agency.



John Prats is the new Bench image model.

Making waves



Here are some ways dive divas can stand out on the beach:

Island prints. Tropical flowers, exotic fruits and birds, idyllic isle scenes make these swimsuits perfect getaway companions.

Ruffles. Tiny ruffle accents make these swimsuits perfect for those romantic nights—or simply girlie day dressing.

Asymmetrical details. One-shoulder swimsuits give beachwear a sophisticated edge.

Stripes. Nautical stripes on swimsuits show that this summer classic never goes out of style.

Two-piece swimwear. Things are best in pairs this summer, and you'll make waves with tankinis, itsy-bitsy bikinis and bandeau tops worn with boy-leg bottoms.

Pareos. The perfect beach cover-up for all types of swimwear.

The collection is available at the Ladies Wear Department of all SM stores.

Too much, too soon

From page D1

don't see in my kids or in other kids who lead predictable, provided-for lives. It's a drive you won't even find in some adults. And it's not a totally materialistic drive, either.

I remember one dinner we had with **Marvin Agustin**, after a tiring mall tour. Marvin talked about his plans—he was working hard, he said, so he could provide for his mom and sisters, give them a home and a business. But more so, he was working, he said, to get his dad out of prison (he's doing time for drugs). He said he wanted to learn directing, photography (which he did), writing (which he did) and water sports (which again he did). A hungry young man, I told myself, hungry to learn and to make himself whole and in the process perhaps he hoped his broken family could be whole.

I've caught this life design echoed by **Jericho Rosales**, **Vanessa del Bianco**, **Kristine Hermosa** (who would always be with her mom when I'd see her some time ago), or even **Diether Ocampo** who told me in graphic detail the lessons in acting he picked up, quite arduously, from **Maricel Soriano**. Show biz was a roller-coaster journey they wouldn't mind taking because it gave them the means to a life, or what they thought would be a life.

Rico came from a family that didn't only provide but also gave him a secure future—from a sense of family, good education and set of values to social stature. Yet, despite his great means, he caught this drive that his colleagues from less adequate backgrounds had. He felt he could be whole through show biz, and perhaps make others feel whole—a means to a dream.

If there was one thing that touched me as I watched—with millions of others—the blockbuster episode of "The Buzz" last Sunday, it was how they played "Gone Too Soon" as they ran images of Rico. The guy was gone too soon.

It left you sad realizing that everything about show biz is "too soon." Too much too soon. Too famous too soon. Too rich too soon. Too in love too soon. Too burnt out too soon. Too much pain too soon. Too has-been too soon.

What we would take a lifetime to acquire, to experience and to achieve, if we do at all, these young stars do, acquire and experience in a few years, if not a year or even months. It's packed in so short a span, with incredible speed.

> What we would take a lifetime to acquire, experience and achieve, young stars like Rico Yan did in a few years, or months

Overnight they're thrust into an adult world, the perils, the thrills, the demands of which would faze an ordinary adult. Hardly out of their teens, they're expected by fans to manage adult relationships—the passion, the romance, the heartbreak of which would leave any adult whimpering, if not traumatized.

Sometimes when I look at the really young ones, I think of my kids. I got the surprise of my life when I learned, much later, that the **Cogie Domingo** who graced the cover of our StarStudio magazine is the same Redmond who used to sleep and eat in my house, for he was a friend of my 15-year-old before show biz. To me, they're no more than babies, but apparently in Redmond's case, not anymore, not after show biz. He has acquired the perks in a year that would take my son perhaps his entire adult life to have. But with them came the hard lessons. I thank God for sparing my son the perks and the hard lessons for now.

Indeed stardom has its price, and in the case of young stars, the price assumes many guises—from a childhood cut short and preempted by fame, to hard work (their killer load and schedule would leave you in tears) to the vast expectations of their public. They try to meet these, with their looks not showing the wear and tear, and still hope to get a life. Role models they must be. That's a tall order.

In a beautiful essay that was distributed at the wake, Fr. **Tito Caluag**, S. J., who was Rico's spiritual counselor and close friend shortly before his death, recalled the deep, intimate conversations he had with the actor about personal struggles, healing and God—these coming at a time he figured in controversies.

The Jesuit wrote of their encounter: "That night made me realize the depth—and also the complexity—of Rico's person. But through it all what came shining through was an authentic person, a young man struggling to heal and be whole, yes, but also a young man so capable of giving himself and of loving and serving others.

"He talked about his friendship with me and said, 'I am sure that my mom, my family are all wondering why of all people I confided in you, a Jesuit priest, and not my Baptist minister. Someday we'll get to share with them why.' Then he later went on to say, 'Father, our dream is not about churches and religions, but it is about what it is to be human and what God wants us to do for the human family.'"

As Father Caluag put it, this young man was journeying back to his soul right before he died.

Last February, we did our magazine cover shoot of all the top stars of the ABS-CBN Talent Center to celebrate the birthday of its head, **Johnny Manahan**, their surrogate dad. Rico posed up front, his hand resting on **Claudine Barretto**'s lap. Hardly did we know that that ABS' "family photo" would be Rico's last.

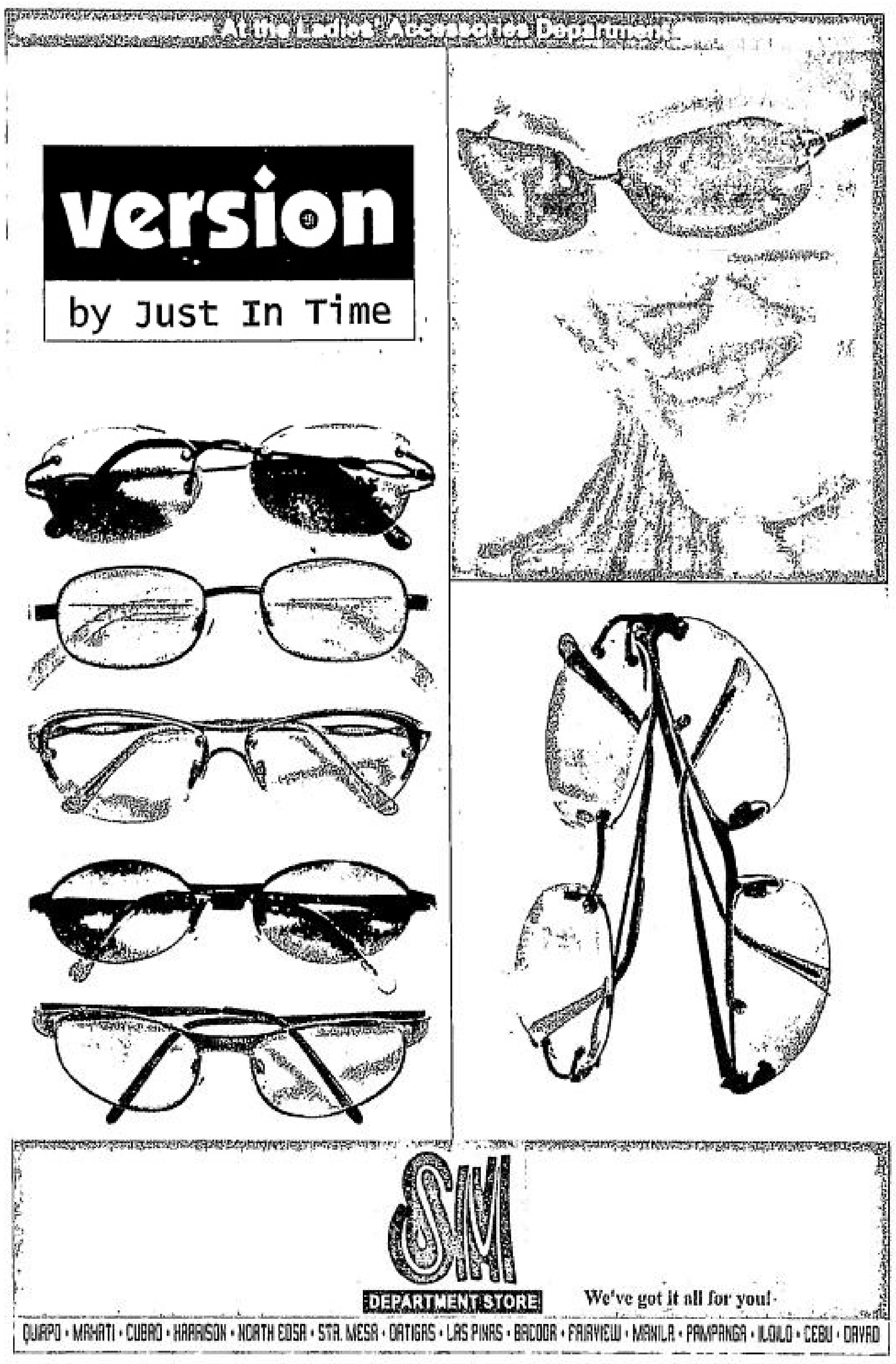
It will be Metro's May cover, but with his death, we cannot run it as is; good taste dictates that we do computer work to make empty the space where Rico Yan stood.

It will be a family picture suddenly made incomplete. A beloved son is gone. Much too soon.

Gretchen's Bvlgari moment

So touching was the TV sight of the Barretto sisters literally giving Claudine a shoulder to cry on. However, to a fashionista's eye, a footage stood out—Claudine sobbing on **Gretchen**'s chest, Gretchen hugging the disconsolate sister, putting her arm around her before the camera. Then—it caught your eye right in that melodramatic tableau: the Bvlgari watch on Gretchen's arm. The tear-jerker turned into a Bvlgari moment. Ah, the pain and perks of show biz.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net



At the Ladies' Accessories Department
version
by Just In Time
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO

If you'd joined us two years ago where would you be now?

You'd be with several of our students, completing their studies in the U.K.

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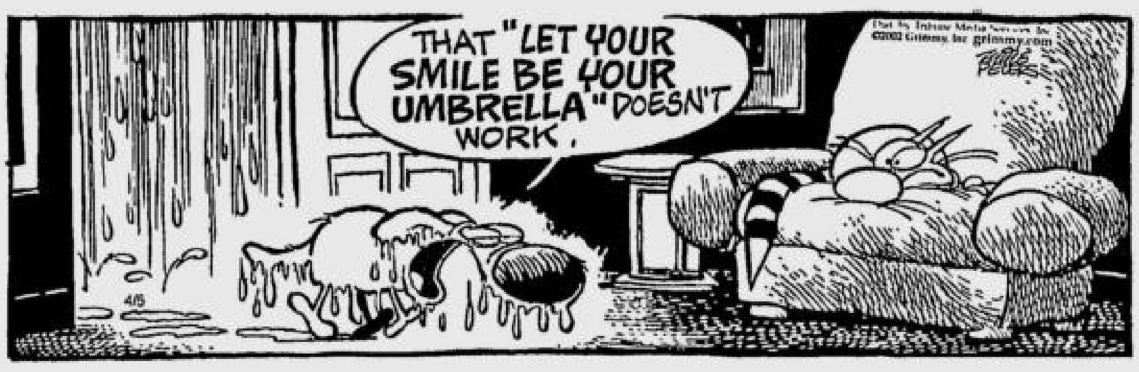
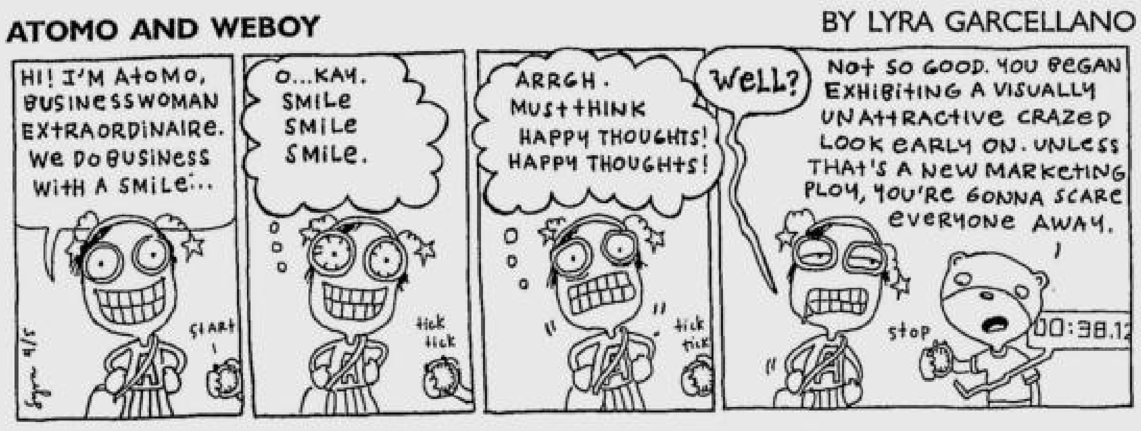
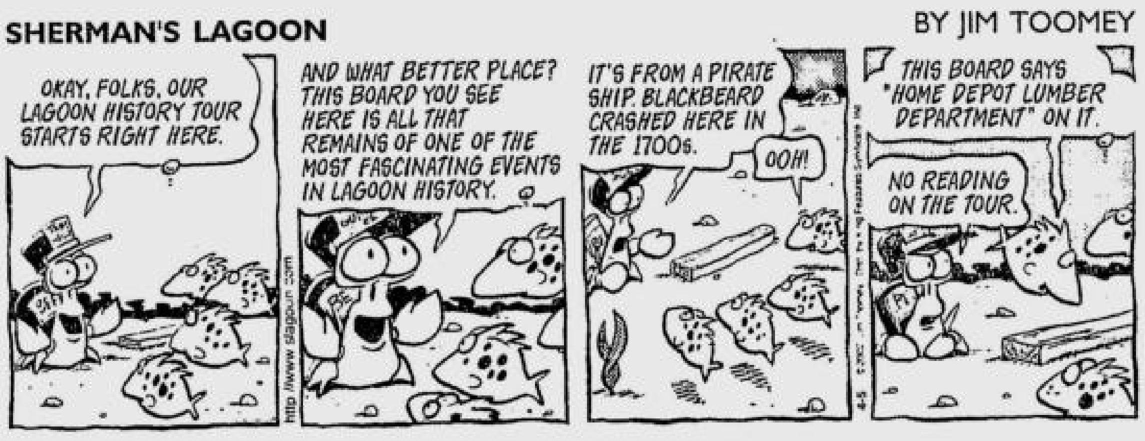
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


THAT "LET YOUR SMILE BE YOUR UMBRELLA" DOESN'T WORK.
4/5

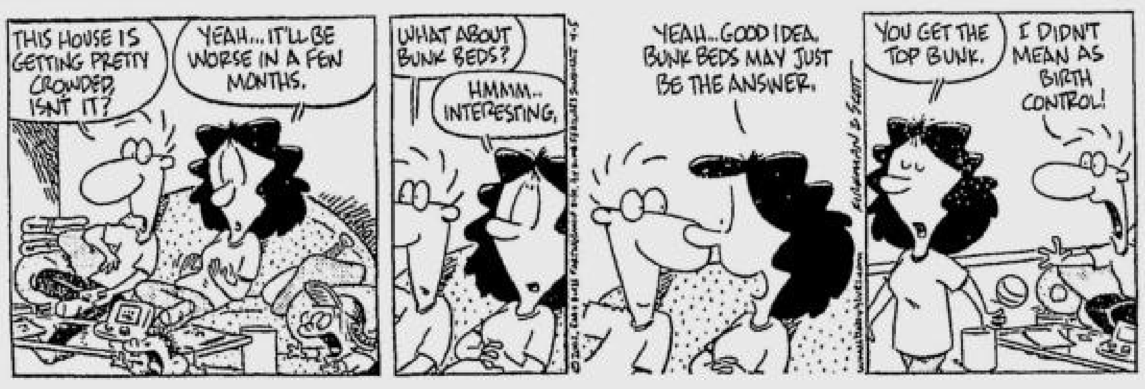
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HI! I'M AtoMo, BUSINESSWOMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE. We Do BUSINeSS WitH A SMILe...
START
O...KAY. SMILe SMILe SMILe.
tick tick
ARRGH. MUSt tHINK HAPPY THOUGHTS! HAPPY THOUGHTS!
tick tick
WeLL?
Not SO GOOD. YOU BeGAN EXHIBitING A VISUALLY UNAttRACtive CRAZeD LOOK eARLY ON. UNLeSS THAT'S A NeW MARKetING PLOY, YOU'Re GONNA SCARe eveRYONe AWAY.
stop
00:38.12

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, FOLKS, OUR LAGOON HISTORY TOUR STARTS RIGHT HERE.
AND WHAT BETTER PLACE? THIS BOARD YOU SEE HERE IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING EVENTS IN LAGOON HISTORY.
IT'S FROM A PIRATE SHIP. BLACKBEARD CRASHED HERE IN THE 1700s.
OOH!
THIS BOARD SAYS "HOME DEPOT LUMBER DEPARTMENT" ON IT.
NO READING ON THE TOUR.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


THIS HOUSE IS GETTING PRETTY CROWDED, ISN'T IT?
YEAH... IT'LL BE WORSE IN A FEW MONTHS.
WHAT ABOUT BUNK BEDS?
HMMM.. INTERESTING.
YEAH...GOOD IDEA. BUNK BEDS MAY JUST BE THE ANSWER.
YOU GET THE TOP BUNK.
I DIDN'T MEAN AS BIRTH CONTROL!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gregory Peck, Colin Powell, Bette Davis

Happy Birthday: You can make money through smart business plans this year. Working for yourself is not a bad idea. You mustn't let personal problems interfere with your professional direction. Your numbers are 9, 14, 19, 26, 32, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Share your great ideas and you'll become the hero. Your changing attitude may disturb those who are afraid of losing your attention.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Follow your own beliefs and you will stay ahead of the game. If you follow someone else you'll lose respect for yourself. Fight back and be prepared to walk away from anyone who tries to put a hold on you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's time to mingle and mix with people who can contribute some mental stimulation to your life. The more you can travel , the better.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your financial adviser may not be telling you the whole truth regarding new investments. Don't sign any papers based on trust. You can prosper through your own efforts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may find yourself going through a change of heart. Take the time to think things through before making a rash decision that could affect the rest of your life. Don't make any personal decisions today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can get ahead financially if you focus on your job. Changes may occur that are not to your liking but you will discover that you are sitting in a better position if you are patient and professional.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may get a slow start but once you get rolling nothing will stand in your way. Leave the most important tasks to the end of the day. Your creative talent will shine and you will receive the acknowledgment you desire.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you are open and receptive, you can make the changes in your life go much more smoothly. You can make some interesting gains if you are willing to move with the times.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your forceful manner will attract attention and respect. Do not hesitate to get your point across. Communication and transportation are highlighted.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can turn your day into a winner just by taking on added responsibilities and proving how valuable you really are. Advancement can be yours;play your cards right.

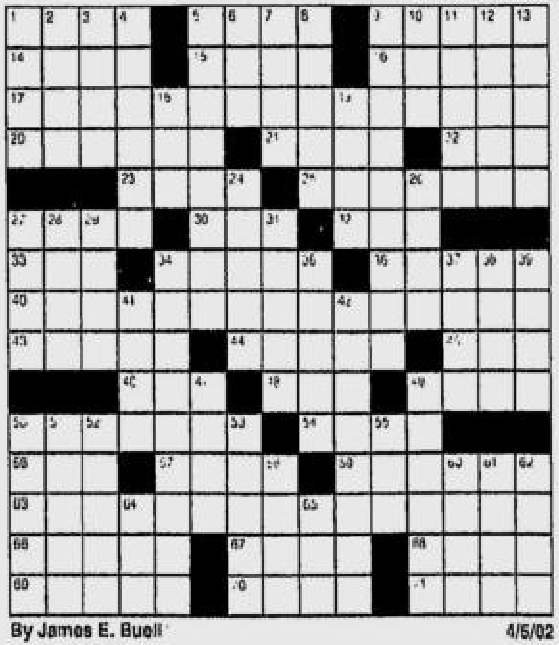
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be a little emotional today. Don't be too quick to react to those around you. You may be reading the situation entirely wrong. Ask a close friend for an assessment of your situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There are deals to be made and profits to enjoy. Find out all you can about a recent investment you got wind of. You can enjoy making changes to your home if you concentrate on your family's needs.

Birthday Baby: You will never accept defeat. Your drive and determination will lead to the success you need to justify yourself. You are talented, caring and willing to lend a helping hand.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
4/5/02

ACROSS
1 Difficult situations
5 Tranquil
9 Diminutive African
14 Larger-than-life
15 Marge
16 Spooky
17 Alley strike
20 Came within range
21 Nearly hopeless
22 "The Gold Bug" penner
23 Hair arrangement
25 Pops
27 Classy
30 Half a breath mint?
32 __ Lanka
33 Gallery draw
34 Sub finder
36 South American peaks
40 Preemptive strike
43 Cowpoke contest
44 Way old
45 Just short
46 Tentacle
48 Shady street?
49 MacNelly strip
50 Flexibility device
54 The south of France
56 Made a ditch
57 Lone invitee
59 Contraptions
63 Called strike
66 Italian seaport
67 Business outfit
68 Tardy
69 Border tool
70 Caton sight of
71 Cooperstown's Slaughter

DOWN
1 Actress Harlow
2 Basilica section
3 Isinglass
4 Char
5 Publishing house staffer
6 MacGraw of "Love Story"
7 __ an ear
8 Recurrent theme
9 Get through
10 Slangy okay
11 Bellyache
12 Small-scale
13 Words of approval
18 __ Speedwagon
19 Noteworthy times
24 The end
26 Whiff
27 Host between Allen and Carson
28 Roughly
29 Wall board
31 Status
34 Racing vehicle
35 Kingdom
37 Sentence break
38 Resounding response
39 Terrier type
41 Pick a field?
42 Omnipotent
47 Closet eater?
49 Snap, crackle and pop
50 Saying
51 Hoodwinked
52 Getting on
53 Pay hike
55 Conk out
58 African antelopes
60 Verbalize an ache
61 Not fooled by
62 Dates with regularity
64 Water tester
65 Inside info

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

Z	O	N	K	■	A	H	E	M	■	A	B	B	O	T
O	P	I	E	■	L	U	L	L	■	G	L	O	V	E
L	U	N	G	W	U	R	S	T	■	A	E	R	I	E
A	S	A	■	H	M	O	■	I	N	T	E	N	D	S
■	■	■	L	I	N	K	■	L	I	E	D	■	■	■
T	A	H	I	T	I	■	S	A	X	■		N	C	A
O	L	I	V	E	■	D	A	T	E	■	N	E	A	R
P	I	K	E	■	C	E	D	E	D	■	G	A	V	E
A	V	E	R	■	R	A	I	D	■	G	E	T	I	N
Z	E	R	O	■	O	D	E	■	P	A	Y	O	L	A
■	■	■	P	O	S	H	■	B	A	R	E	■	■	■
R	E	V	E	R	S	E	■	O	P	T	■	J	O	E
E	L	E	N	A	■	A	Q	U	A	H	E	A	R	T
B	E	R	E	T	■	D	U	T	Y	■	E	V	A	N
S	A	B	R	E	■	S	O	S	A	■	L	A	N	A

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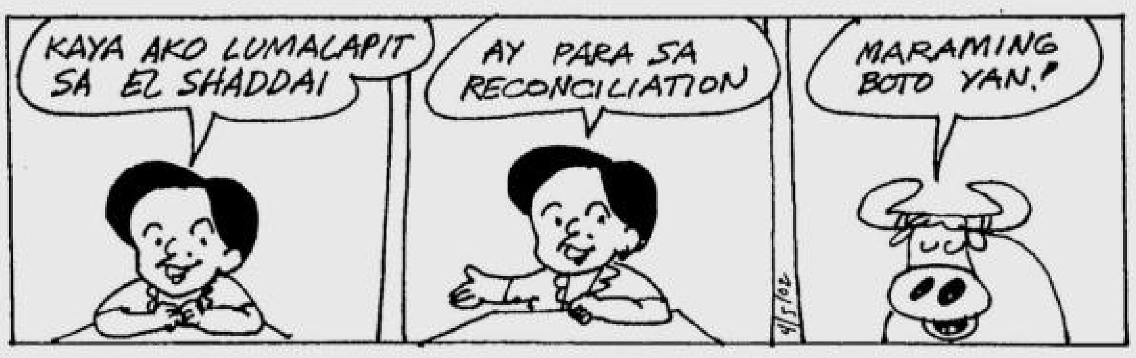
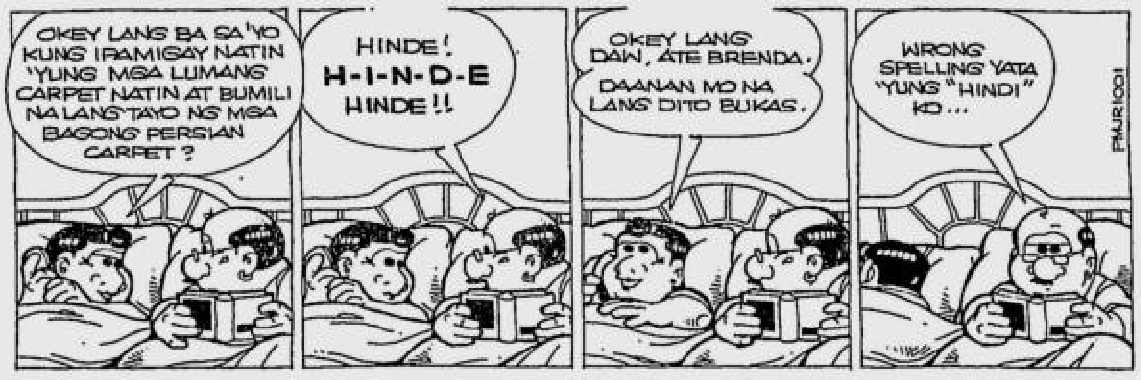
4/5/02

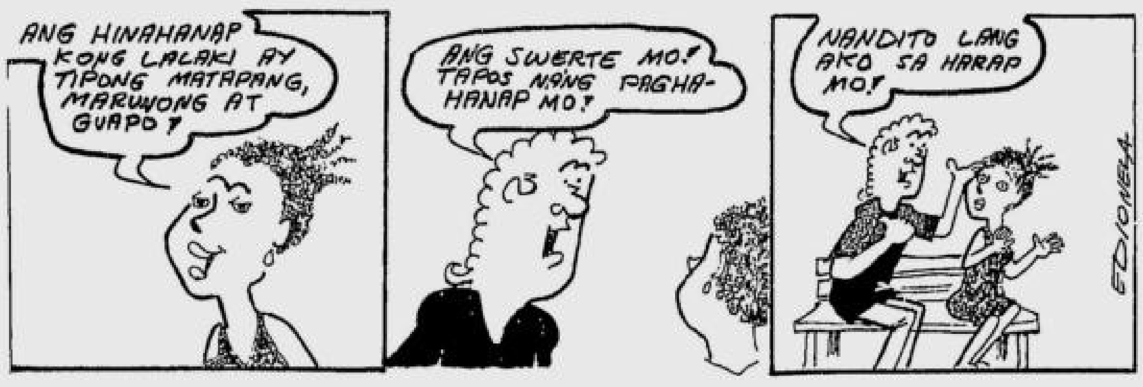
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KAYA AKO LUMALAPIT SA EL SHADDAI
AY PARA SA RECONCILIATION
4/5/02
MARAMING BOTO YAN!

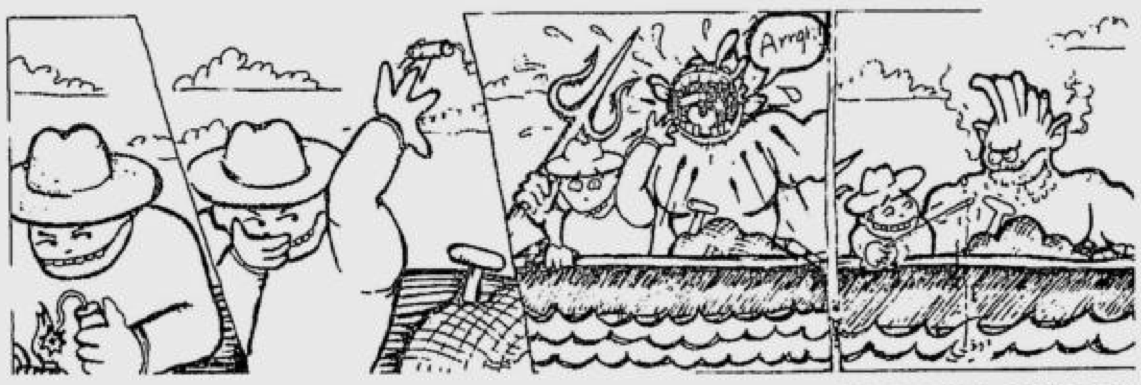
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


OKEY LANG BA SA'YO KUNG IPAMIGAY NATIN 'YUNG MGA LUMANG CARPET NATIN AT BUMILI NA LANG TAYO NG MGA BAGONG PERSIAN CARPET?
HINDE! H-I-N-D-E HINDE!!
OKEY LANG DAW, ATE BRENDA.
DAANAN MO NA LANG DITO BUKAS.
WRONG SPELLING YATA 'YUNG "HINDI" KO...
PMJR1001

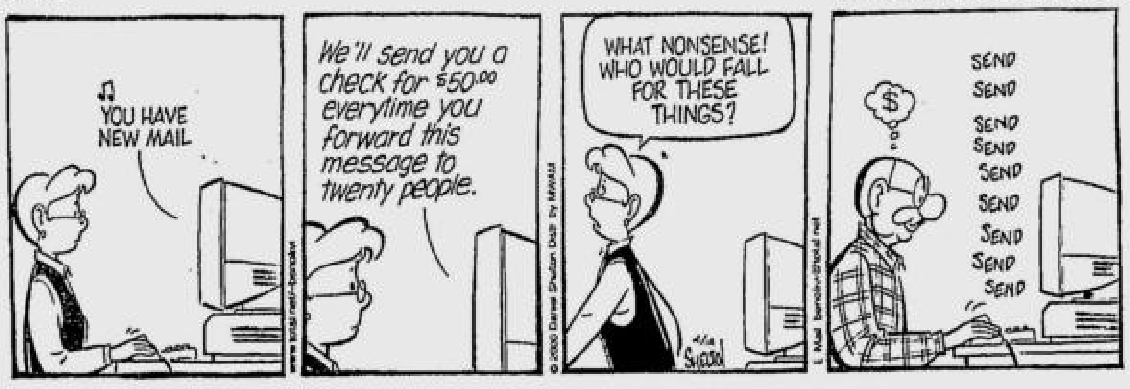
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANG HINAHANAP KONG LALAKI AY TIPONG MATAPANG, MARUNONG AT GUAPO?
ANG SWERTE MO! TAPOS NANG PAGHAHANAP MO?
NANDITO LANG AKO SA HARAP MO!
EDIONELA

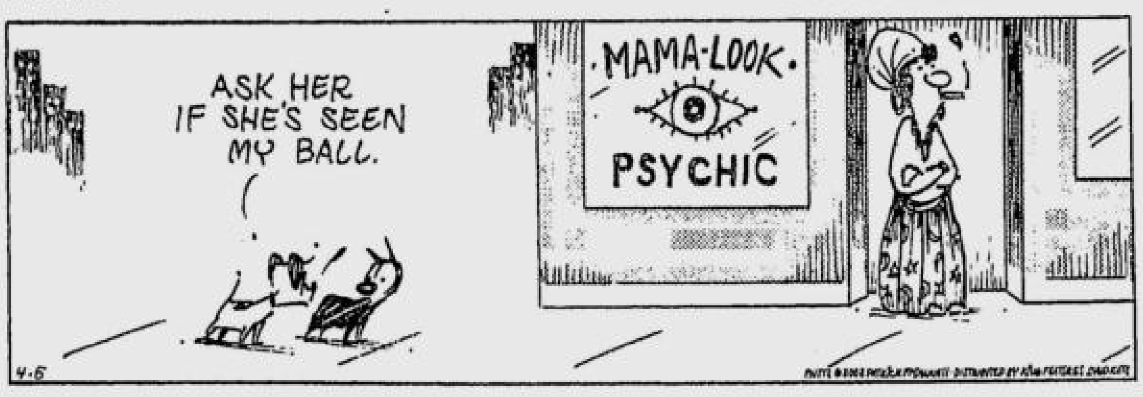
CHICHOY CHOKOY BY IKOY RICIO



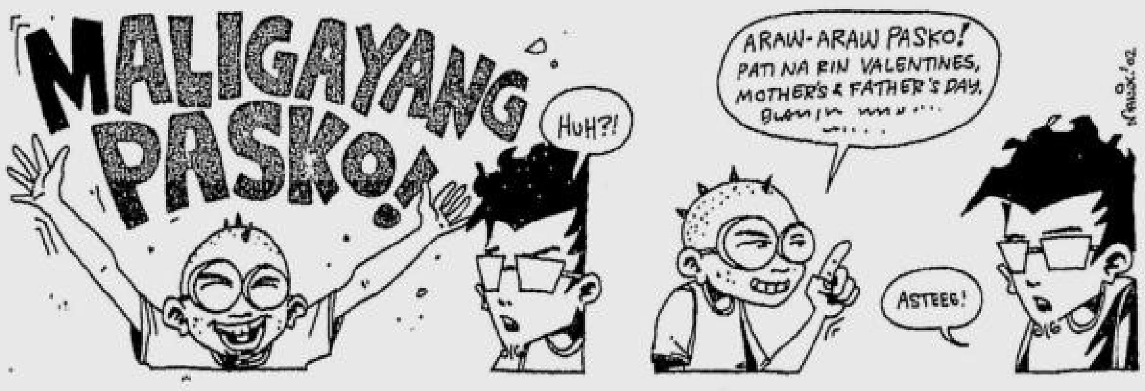
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU HAVE NEW MAIL
We'll send you a check for $50.00 everytime you forward this message to twenty people.
WHAT NONSENSE! WHO WOULD FALL FOR THESE THINGS?
$
SEND
SEND
SEND
SEND
SEND
SEND
SEND
SEND
SEND

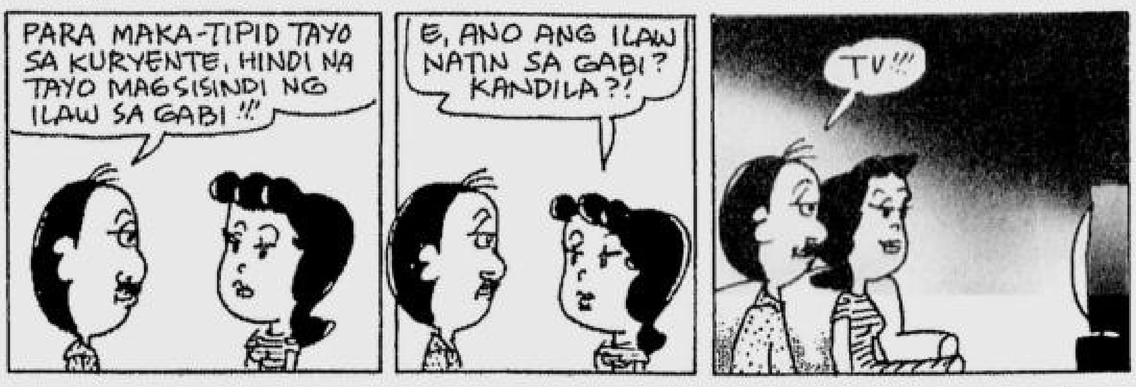
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ASK HER IF SHE'S SEEN MY BALL.
MAMA-LOOK PSYCHIC
4-6

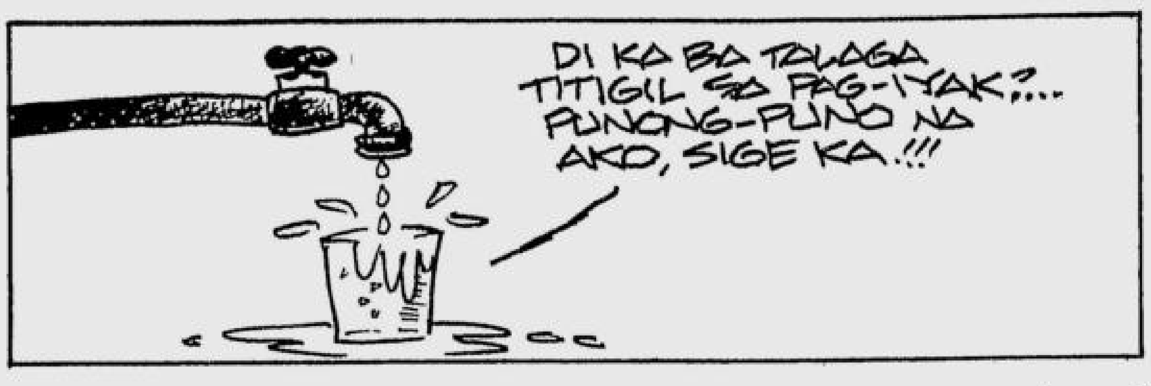
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


MALIGAYANG PASKO!
HuH?!
ARAW-ARAW PASKO! PATI NA RIN VALENTINES, MOTHER'S & FATHER'S DAY,
ASTEEG!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PARA MAKA-TIPID TAYO SA KURYENTE, HINDI NA TAYO MAGSISINDI NG ILAW SA GABI!!!
E, ANO ANG ILAW NATIN SA GABI? KANDILA?!
TV!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI KA BA TALAGA TITIGIL SA PAG-IYAK?... PUNONG-PUNO NA AKO, SIGE KA.!!!

FEEL AND LOOK SPECIAL WITH GLOSSY LIPS

Glossy lips make the fashion statement du jour. Glamorous and sexy, glossy lips can turn the ordinary into something special with just one application. Check out Maybelline Watershine Diamonds with its diamond dust and polymers for high-shine lips without the messy gloss feel.

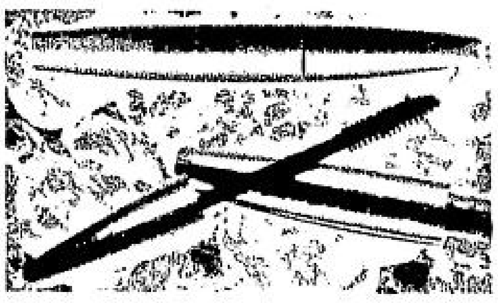
High-precision mascara

L'ORÉAL Paris has designed the new mascara Intensifique that coats each lash completely without clumping, reconciling women's two principal wishes—visibly thicker and perfectly separated lashes.

L'Oréal has developed a formula that is part of the new generation of volume enhancers containing high-adhesion polymers associated with gliss silicone complex that contains oxygenic properties, and high-adhesion polymers that work to cover the lash, style them and make them longer-lasting.

The Gliss Silicone Complex is an association of the following components: volume-enhancing gum that adds volume to lashes, a plasticizing agent to draw out the mascara more easily to the tips of the lashes and to smooth them, and a refined wax to help the brush glide over the lashes and make application easier.

Intensifique also contains D-Panthenol, known for its restructuring properties. To make Intensifique an exceptional mascara, an exclusive brush was especially developed to enhance the qualities of the formula.



This patented brush was designed to allow very accurate makeup and enhance the volume of lashes. The dual effect combines a volume-effect, the special surface of the bristles that matches the triangular shape of the brush to leave a large quantity of mascara on each lash; and a comb effect, arranged in an inverted spiral so the bristles comb all the lashes from the base and separate them, avoiding the formation of clumps. This new brush technology takes lashes separately from the root, coats them and increases the volume up to the tip.

New hair and skin care line debuts in Manila

ESSENSES, Rustan's Department Store's cosmetic and body care hub, introduces John Masters Organics, a new hair care and skin care line from New York. John Master Organics uses natural ingredients and highly effective products.

Used by a number of upscale salons in New York and by celebrities like Winona Ryder, Melanie Griffith, Jeanine Garofalo, Anne Heche and Sarah Jessica Parker, John Masters Organics has been recommended by international fashion and shopping magazines.

Among the highly recommended products of the brand, which started as organic formulas concocted by stylist John Masters in his New York apartment, is the Cider Rinse for treated brown or red hair. The rinse seals in pigments a few days after a color job. Other must-have products include the Citrus and Neroli Detangler, the John Masters Pomade with Olive Oil, and Zinc Shampoo.

John Masters introduced recently his skin care line with treatments that include gentle cream cleansers, restorative facemasks, revitalizing toning mists, lotions and serums. His Rose and Linden Blossom Face Wash is highly recommended as it seals in the skin's own natural moisture. The Detoxifying Mask lessens the effects of ultraviolet rays by absorbing impurities.

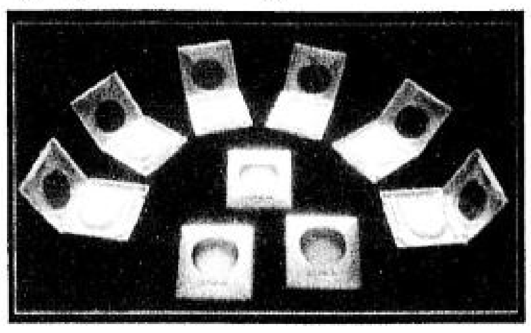
John Masters products are available only at Essenses in Rustan's Makati and Alabang.

Lighten up your eyes

THIS SUMMER L'Oréal has come up with an eye shadow that is gentle, long-lasting and easy to apply.

Color Appeal is made with a long-lasting powder that does not migrate and guarantees a uniform color for hours. New Micro-Jet technology yields an ultra-fine powder and a texture that melts on the eyelid.

Fine milling of color pigments ensures adjustable coverage of the eyelid, and a uniform color distribution does not accentuate the creases in the eyelid. The fine Color Appeal powder does not migrate and stays on for hours.



Smart makeup for busy women

ESTÉE Lauder introduces the Equalizer, a smart foundation that provides both long-lasting coverage and efficient skin care.

Equalizer was designed for the 21st-century female who wears many hats in and outside the home, but still wants to look beautiful with the least bit of fuss. The foundation has soy and coconut proteins that break down sebum and oil into minute droplets. Micro "sponges" included in the formula mop up the droplets before they surface on the skin. A marine extract helps decrease production of oil and sebum. Tests showed that after eight hours of wear, Equalizer reduced oil by 22 percent.

The smart foundation also works for dry skin, producing oil where it is needed to balance hydration. Novasomes containing water, ceramides cholesterol and linoliec acid maintain moisture balance. Equalizer was found to improve skin moisture by 21 percent.

The foundation has a nonchemical SPF10 sunscreen to protect against damage from sun exposure without causing irritation.

Equalizer can provide a natural finish with light application for daywear. Applying a little more foundation provides a more dramatic coverage for evening.

Estée Lauder's Equalizer is available at Rustan's.

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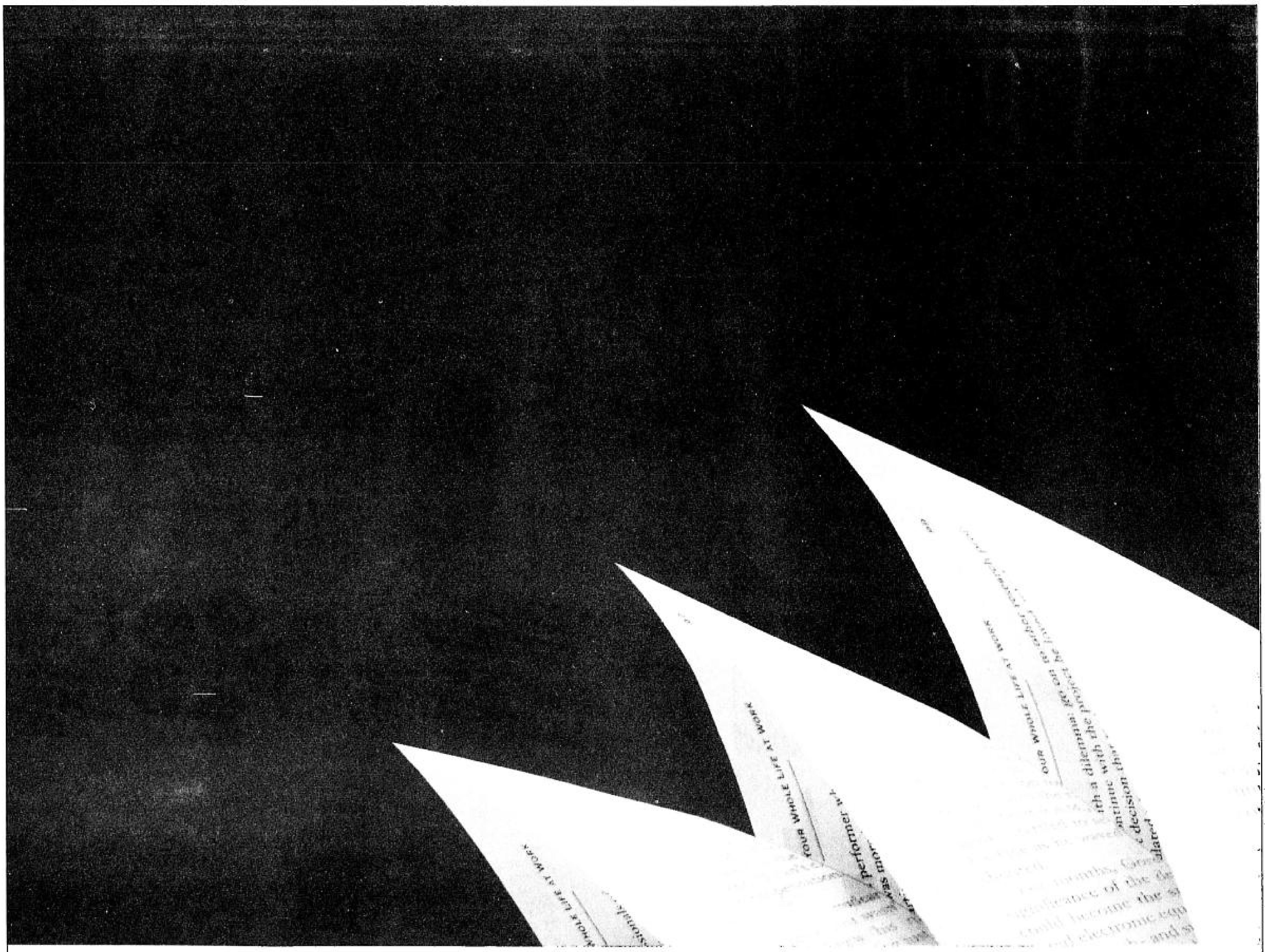

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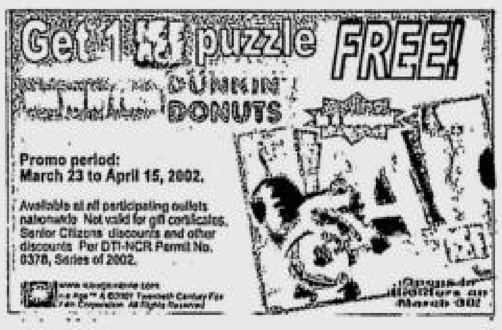
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Domesticity is the new diva

Trend Spotting

By Harriet Ann Dy
Contributor

TORONTO—Kick off your Manolos and bring out the Martha in you. As New York Times (and ex-Harper's Bazaar editor) contributor Kate Betts puts it: "The living room is the new VIP room."

Think of it as a belated reaction to an old prophecy. Ten years ago, futurist Faith Popcorn introduced the concept of "cocooning." She described it as "the need to protect oneself from the harsh, unpredictable realities of the world." That's the same world that has turned even harsher after Sept. 11.

Even then, the trend osmosis from fashion to home has been gathering steam in the last few years. First there was Area Home Store. Then, lifestyle purveyor Ben Chan gave the family-owned furniture retailer Dimensione a hipper, funkier lease on life. And we knew for sure that home retail had turned serious when SM dove into the action, with Our Home in Megamall. Recently, Rustan's Makati renovated its home section on the sixth floor and beefed up its merchandise. (***See photos***)

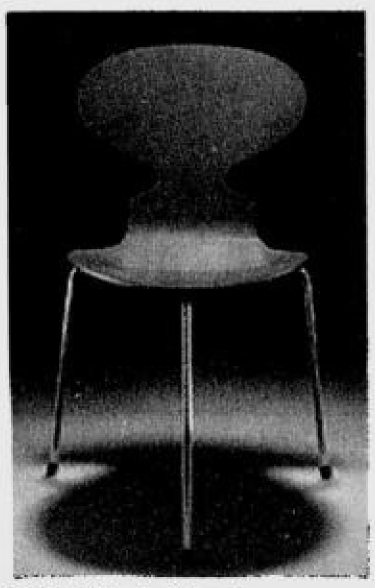
Investment

In a report published by Giftware News, a leading Canadian trade publication, the US-based International Housewares Association pegged last year's combined sales at a staggering $267.8 billion.

"People are investing more in their homes now than they did before," observes Ken Metrick, president of Elte Carpet and Home, a Toronto-based upscale furniture institution. "They want to buy things they can use for years. The quality issue has been there all along; Sept. 11 only hastened it."

Lally Rementilla, a single, thirtysomething Filipino-Canadian yuppie is a prime example. A top finance executive with Lucent Technologies, she discovered her passion for home when she moved into her loft in the trendy Yonge and Eglinton area (more popularly known as "young and eligible" zone) in downtown Toronto three years ago.

"I started small, held intimate dinners for two or three friends," she recalls. "All I had was a patio table and chairs."



THE ANT chair by Arne Jacobsen

'Cocooning' is the buzzword once more in major interior design exhibitions. And Philippine capiz is being predicted to make a splash in home trends worldwide

Two months after her move, she bought her "dream dining table"—a square, cappuccino-stained Maplewood creation that seats eight.

"It inspired me to have large parties," she says. "I use it as a vehicle for promoting Filipino food and show off my Kapampangan roots to Canadian friends." Throughout 2000, she averaged one dinner party a month.

Although 9/11 hasn't affected her passion for entertaining, she admits, "The tragedy brought people to the realization that family and home life matters."

Attitude change

It is an observation echoed by top retailers like Patrick Connolly, executive vice president and chief marketing officer of Williams-Sonoma, a San Francisco-based upscale kitchen specialty store. In an interview with Canadian Retailer, Connolly tracked the consumers' attitude shift from material to personal from a year ago.

"What was becoming more important centered on the values of family, home and personal rela-

DOMESTICITY/ p.E5

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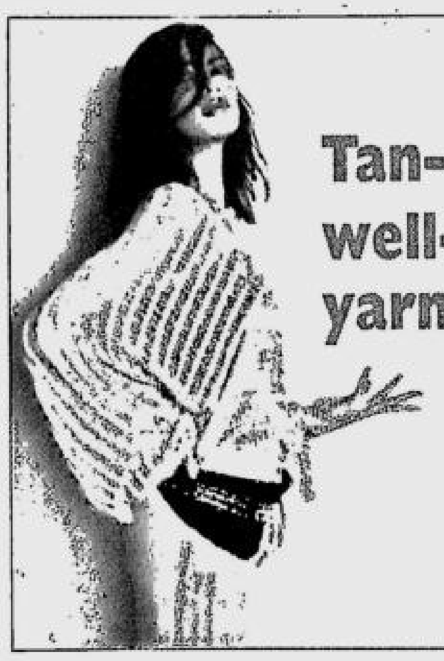

Tan-Gan's well-wrought yarn

Story on page E6

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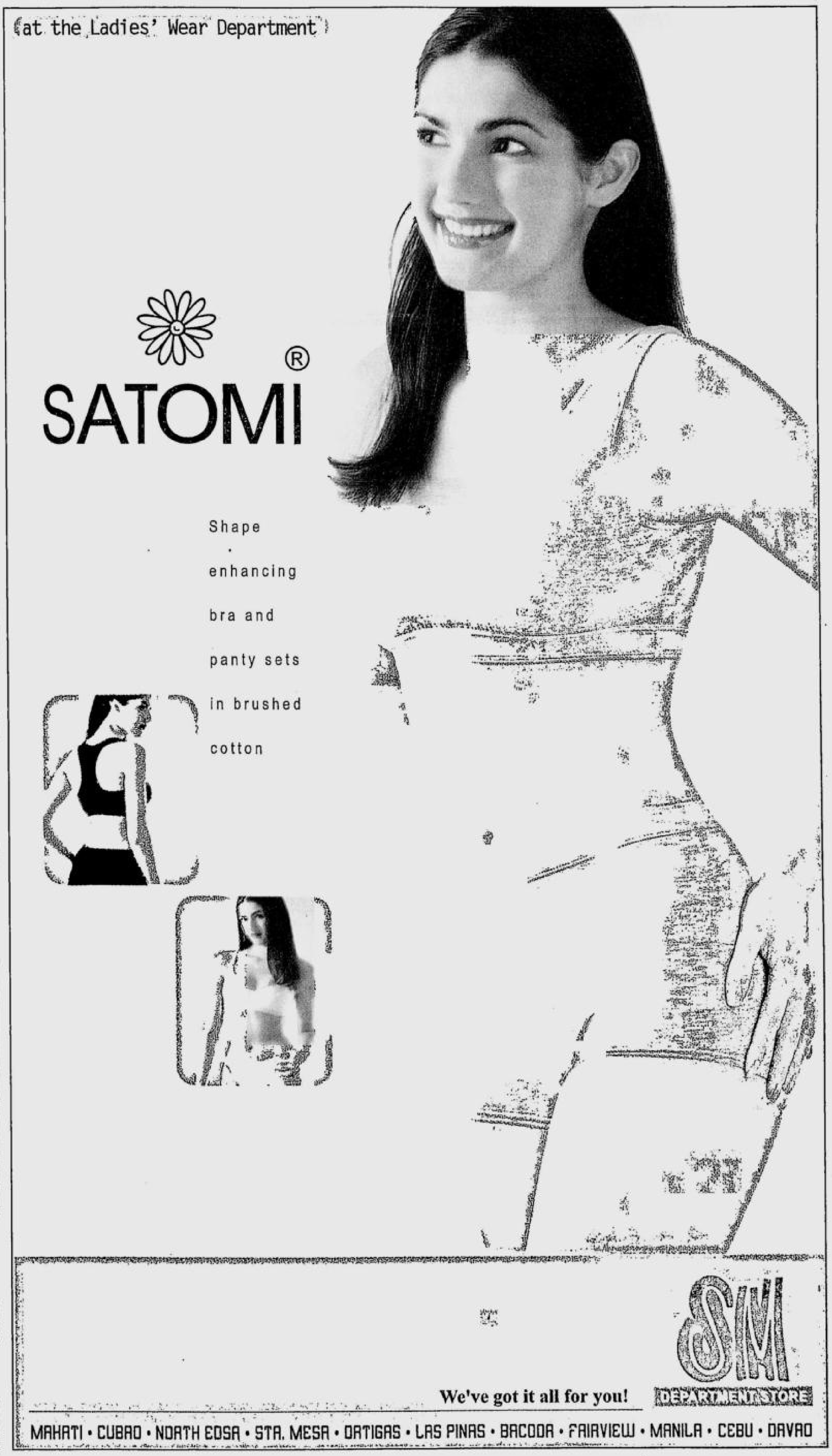
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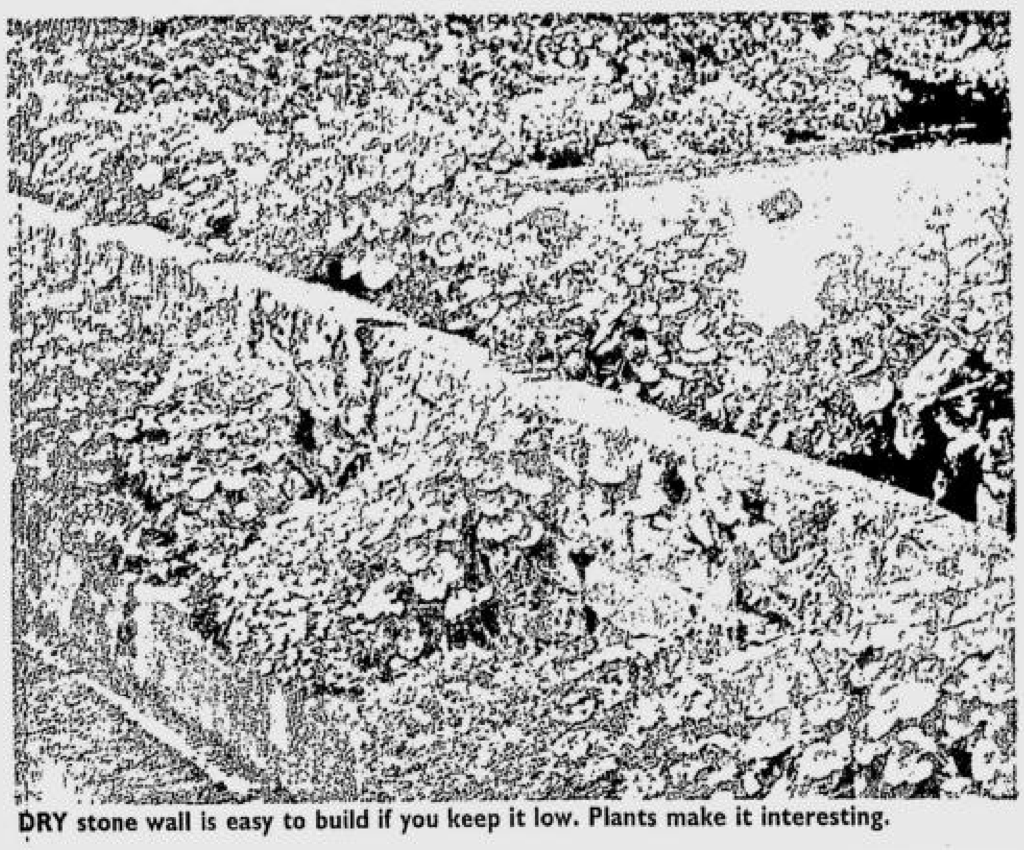
Size doesn't matter in planning a garden



DRY stone wall is easy to build if you keep it low. Plants make it interesting.

By Tita Giron
Contributor

REVIEW

Practical Small Gardens
By Peter McHoy
Annes Publishing Limited
256 pages

WINDOW box garden has colorful daisies and petunias.

HERE'S a book for folks looking for ideas on how to make gardens in small spaces—basement, porch, window box, patio, rooftop, wall. Author Peter McHoy did not leave any stone unturned, so to speak. The book is a rich trove of information, tips and ideas for landscapes, garden arts, containers, plants and oh-so many more.

"Everything you need to know when planning, designing and planting a small garden and how to put your ideas into action," the teaser said. We flipped through the pages and made full stops at chapters that offered easy-to-follow solutions to problems we often encountered.

"Unpromising backyards and basements can be transformed as much by a coat of masonry paint, a few choice plants and some elegant garden furniture and tubs," the author said in the first chapter titled "Difficult Sites." Difficult spots discussed in the book included, among others, areas on the roof, balcony, odd-shaped clearance around the house, high-wall enclosure.

Inspiring

All pages of the book are crammed with photos of beautiful gardens, step-by-step demonstrations and landscape designs. After reading the teaser on the cover of the book and seeing the picture of a small garden with lush plants, we couldn't wait to get started on our own pocket garden behind the house. We rummaged through the storage room to retrieve an old bird table similar to a garden accent featured in the book, and we hied to Cypress Gardens on Edsa to buy colorful river stones.

The book is divided into three main parts. Topics in each part or chapter are well-organized, making the book a user-friendly reference. "Elements of Design" focuses on making the landscape designs and how best to use the available space. It includes basic garden pat-

SIZE/ P.E3

SECRET places can be created even in the smallest of spaces.

CANDLEHOLDERS from Flowery Enterprises

Candle show April 10-16

PHILTRADE Exhibits, with Bayview Park Hotel, is hosting "Scentses," a candles, scents and herbs exhibit, and an afternoon tea called "Mystique Merienda" at the hotel's lobby on April 10-16.

The exhibit features unique designs and styles of candles for decorative and functional purposes, select herbs for medicinal and beauty purposes, and soothing aromatherapy.

Activities during the exhibit includes fortune-telling, tattoo demonstration, herbal beauty application, massage-oil-making demonstration and candle-making demonstration.

Exhibit opens at 9 a.m.-10 p.m., and is open to the public. Call 820-7879/1570.

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SM SOUTHMALL•SM MEGAMALL•SM CITY FAIRVIEW•SM CUBAO•SM CITY MANILA•SM SUCAT•FESTIVAL MALL•SM CITY CEBU•SM CITY BACOOR•SM CITY ILOILO•SM CITY PAMPANGA•SM CITY DAVAO

WHITE masonry lightens dark basement garden.

Size doesn't matter in planning a garden

From page E2

terns, strategies on how to disguise and screen problem spots, utilities and storage, jazzing up gardens, creating desired effects.

Amateurs will get a boost of confidence in the section featuring classic foreign gardens. The author advised readers not to be nervous as he suggested the Japanese garden. He explained that this type was easily adapted to small spaces and needed little maintenance. People following McHoy's advice should use stones and rocks reminiscent of a dry riverbed in an arid region and drought-tolerant plants that look good even in dry weather.

Easy to follow

Part two of the book is all about "Features and Structures." The reader will find numerous ideas and easy-to-follow procedures on the interesting things that can be done in a garden, no matter how small.

The author, for example, shows two ways to make a new lawn, specifically sowing the seeds and laying out the carpet of grown grass.

The entire chapter is full of interesting how-to ideas. It will no doubt get the reader reaching for the tool box and going to garden stores to start a project. Topics include grass substitutes, decorative paving, timber decking, gravel gardens, garden walls, trellis and fences, and hanging gardens. Amateurs will learn how to construct pergolas and gild or paint pots.

"Choosing Plants," the concluding chapter, is not a mere enumeration of garden plants despite what the title suggests. This is an engrossing chapter that covers, among others, planting for hard and soft landscaping styles.

We learned, for the first time, that hard landscaping referred to paving, walls, fences, pergolas and structures that give the garden its shape. Soft landscaping, on the other hand, refers to plants that provide the "flesh, shape and texture of the garden."

"Practical Small Gardens" has a lot of ideas for garden lovers and folks who love to do their own thing. Although not every technique in the book can be adapted here, the author inspires readers to innovate and devise strategies.

"There is always room for individual interpretation—and even eccentricity," McHoy pointed out. He added that the only criterion for success was whether the result pleased you personally.

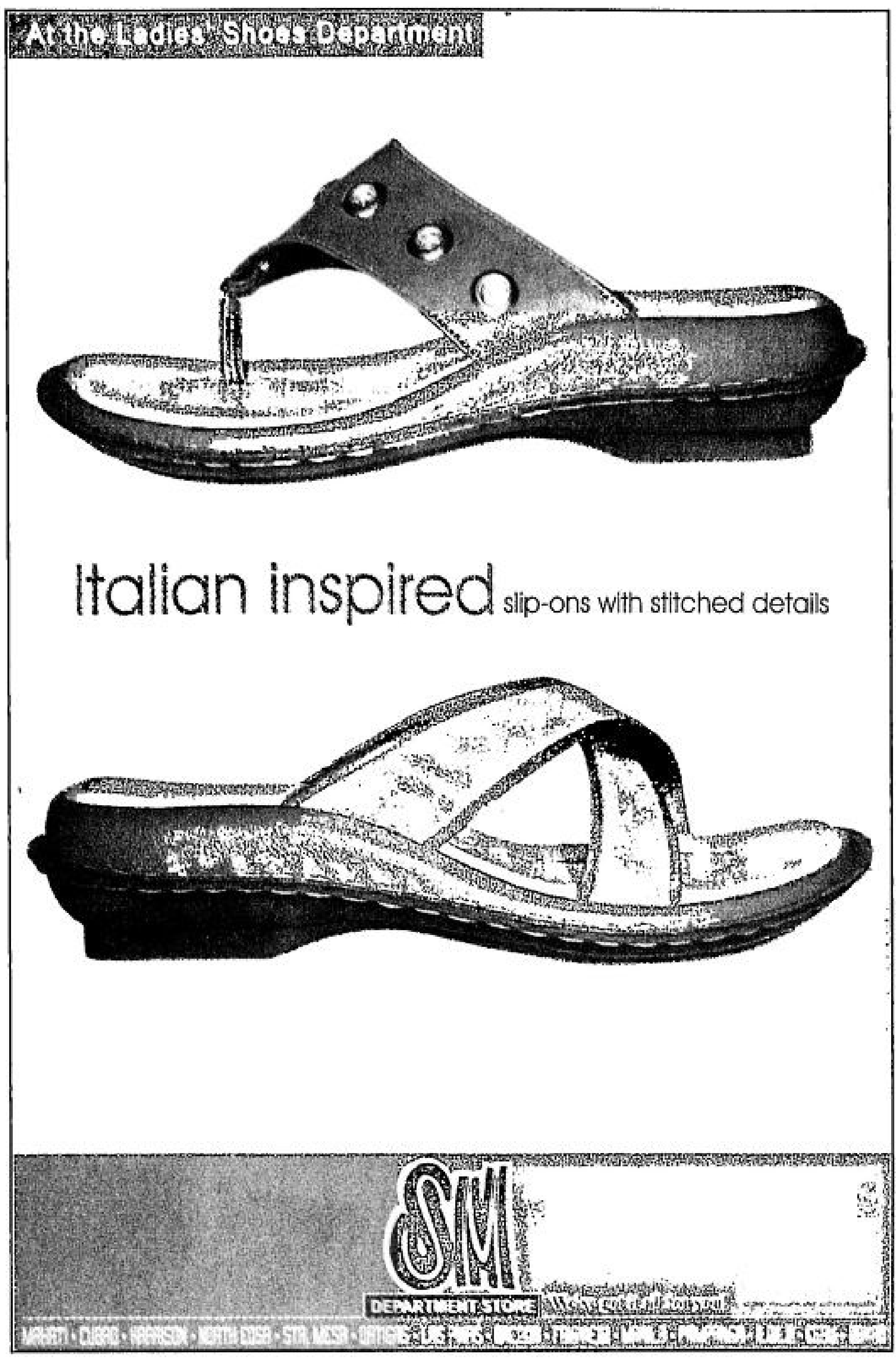
In a nutshell, the book is all about making small gardens with big impact.

Available at National Bookstore

The reader will find numerous ideas and easy to follow procedures to make a small garden interesting

FLOWERING plants in pots and half-baskets make a bare wall interesting.

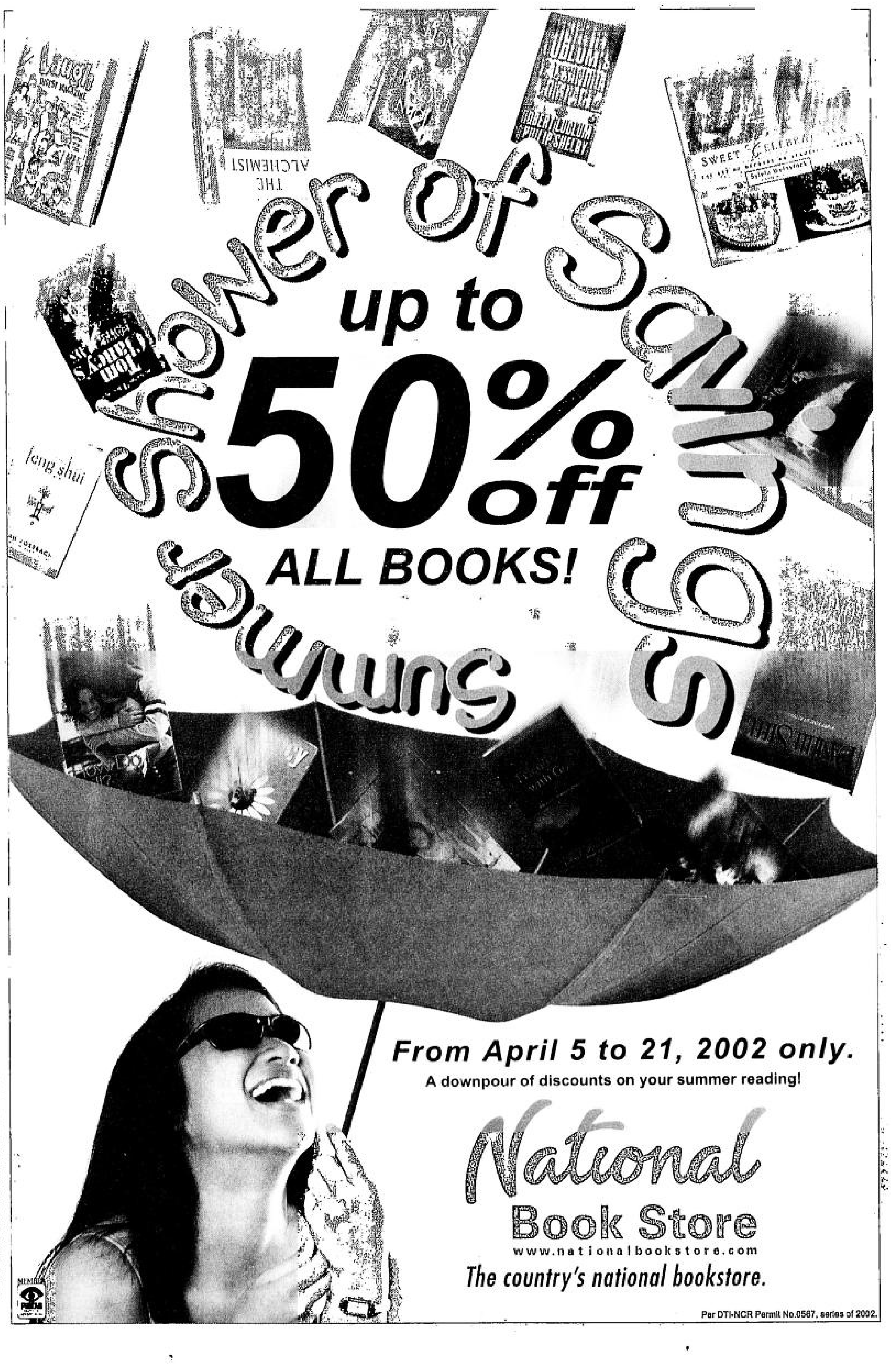
GRAVEL garden



At the Ladies' Shoes Department

Italian inspired slip-ons with stitched details

SM DEPARTMENT STORE



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0567, series of 2002.

She is secretly in love with a girl

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am a man trapped in a woman's body. I hate to be called a lesbian, and I dislike lesbians, but I've fallen in love with a girl.

I have been very friendly with her, treating her to outings, doing her favors, phoning her often, and I make her believe those were just friendly gestures. Deep inside me, though, I love her very much. I have not told her so, but sometimes I think she knows.

She has many suitors and I get secretly jealous whenever she talks of them. I'm sure, though, that she has not accepted any of them and she's never had a relationship with a guy.

I know that the real relationship I want to have with her would be a sin before man and God, so shame prevents me from revealing myself to her. But how long must I hide my feelings? Every day it's increasingly difficult for me to bear my situation, especially since she'll be leaving abroad in a few months to work there. I feel I'm losing her, and I'm losing my will to live.

BLUE LOVE

If you think she knows how you truly feel for her but she has not given you any encouragement to open up to her, then you must take that as her answer—that she only wants the two of you to be friends.

You could still take your chance, though, and reveal to her your heart. But if even now you are already ashamed of your feelings, then you'll feel a lot worse if she rejects you. You might lose not just her friendship, but her respect as well.

Someone Up There wants us to love one another, but He never promised that, in every case, our love will be requited. And when our love is unrequited, I don't think it's because He wants to break our heart; I think He only wants us to learn a lesson well.

When you deeply love a person, and she does not or cannot love you back, the best thing she can give you is her respect. If she loves you as you love her, she'll let you know. If she does not, then make yourself her best and her most respected friend.

* * *

I'M a regular reader of your column. I'm wondering if you have information regarding free seminars or lectures being held concerning career development or personality development, or simply any topic that is educational. I'm a bank employee and I'm greatly interested in widening my horizons and spending my free time productively.

KAREN

To organizers of such free summer programs, please write in. We'll cite your career programs here, and I'm sure thousands of Karens out there will be glad to know.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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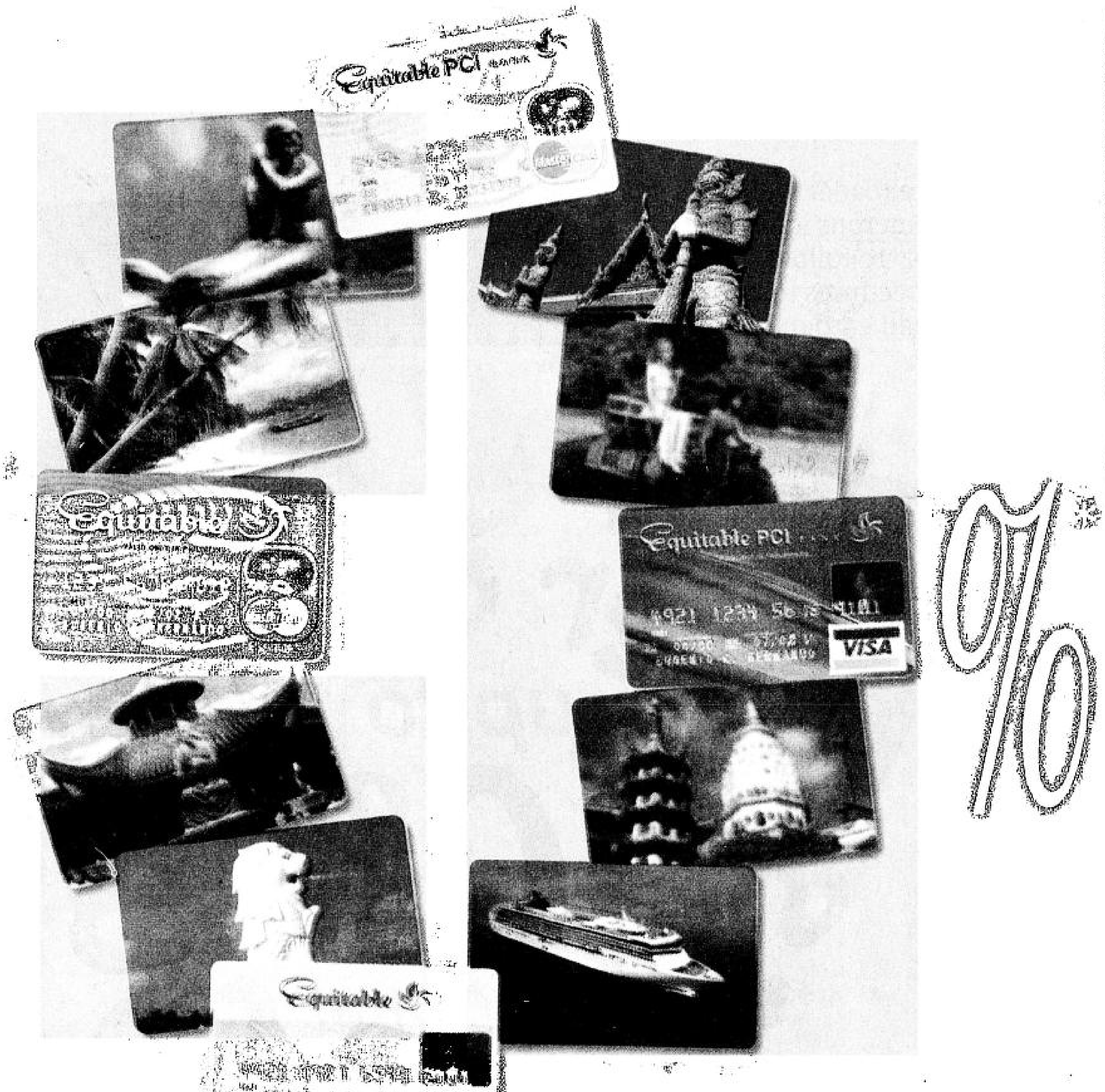

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PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO.0486, SERIES OF 2002

How flower arrangers save the environment

ARE flower and garden enthusiasts necessarily environmentalists? I hear of gardeners who use chemical fertilizers to speed up the growth of their plants, some who even cut down trees in their garden to make way for a level planting field. Those gardeners can hardly be considered environmentalists, can they?

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

To Nonette Manalac Hubilla, wife of well-known interior designer Johnny, and chair of the Ikenobo Society of Manila (whose exhibit was held recently at the Shangri-La Edsa Mall), "to love flowers and foliage, you have to be an environmentalist. Plant lovers, like my group, love to look for materials to work with and will go anywhere—to waysides and far-out fields—in our search."

In their demonstration classes, invariably held in farm areas or in barangays, Ikenobo Society members often show how a variety of flowers and plants may be arranged artistically using just about any container or plants at hand. For purposes of exhibits, however, more elegant arrangements are created. This is why, perhaps, many people get the impression that Japanese floral arts are meant for the affluent only. Nonette explains that exotic flowers and containers to match are chosen for formal occasions to add interest to the show, otherwise the same creativity goes for both down-home and formal arrangements.

Nor do the formal arrangements mean that those are all that the Ikenobo Society advocates. On the contrary, members are encouraged to utilize materials that are easily available, and in that way, give more significance to their art.

Nonette recounts that once, for a show, her Ikenobo group was assigned to work with junkyard materials. So it was that, at that affair, their arrangements literally blossomed out of car mufflers (*tambucho*), parts of car wheels, even drain pipes and plastics.

More often, they use discarded plants or parts of plants, like the barks of the palm which, to their joy, turned out to be excellent "vases." There is an added advantage to the use of discarded parts of a plant. As every gardener knows, snipping off dried leaves and branches from living plants or trees is healthy for the plants, and the more plants are pruned, the better they flourish.

One of the arrangements at the exhibit that exemplified the effective use of discarded materials had a huge bamboo root (4 ft w x 2½ ft h) as a base. Natural nodes that held water made perfect "containers" for petit mini, stasis, dancing lady (mini orchid) and ferns.

Ikenobo, incidentally, is named after its founder and master, a priest from a temple in Kyoto. He so distinguished himself that he soon set up his own school, which is still in existence after 400 years, boasting of the longest traditions and the most number of students in all Japan.

While economy of lines is part of the school's discipline, the flower arranger has the freedom to utilize the material on hand to the best advantage, as in the case of the bamboo root that could accommodate several flowers at the same time, and not just two or three as convention demands.

In putting these natural elements together, a microcosm of Planet Earth is created, serving to symbolize the harmony that should exist between man and nature, especially in man's use of the natural things around him.

Nature summer camp

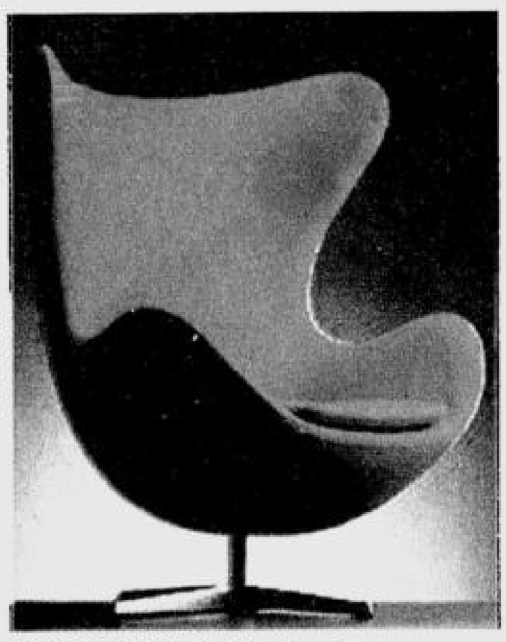
TALK about care of nature, one way to instill it in the young is to let them experience nature in all its beauty and wonder.

Summer camps geared for fun as well as environmental education are one way to do this. As a matter of fact, Snack or Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids aged 7 to 13 has been doing this for the past four years, promoting activities that not only bring nature closer to the campers but enhance their physical and emotional development. This year's Snack starts from April 8 to 13.

According to Snack founder, journalist Bibsy Carballo, the camp offers, among other things, mountaineering at Mt. Talamitam in Nasugbo, Batangas, where discipline is enforced for the safety of both the camper and the environment. A visit to a plant nursery exposes the child/participant to the important role plants play to minimize pollution and as sources of medicine.

There is sailing, kayaking, archery, pottery-making classes, photography, tie-dyeing (taught by Ari Heneral), tae-bo exercises (Jackie Lou Blanco), taekwondo (Monsour del Rosario), acting (Lara Fabregas) and Lubid team-building adventure games.

Call 726-7184, 724-1762 or 721-0801.



THE EGG chair by Arne Jacobsen

Domesticity is the new diva

From page E1

tionships," he told the magazine. "Every research report we've seen since Sept. 11 says that home, family and personal relationships are more important than ever." Williams-Sonoma and its sister company, Pottery Barn, opened their first stores in Canada a month after 9/11.

Cocooning was again the buzzword at the recent Interior Design Show (IDS) in downtown Toronto. Part of the exhibit—which featured talks by design legend Sir Terence Conran and top design figures like New York Times' design columnist Chee Pearlman and Studio Lissoni founder Piero Lissoni—was a concept space by five Canadian design teams with "retreat" as theme.

"A home has always been a refuge," says Metrick. "People feel safe, relaxed and comforted in a home."

What better reason to escape indoors than a beautifully decorated environment? For this year, expect softer, brighter shades like azure, champagne, pink, sage, champagne and current favorite, aubergine. Warm colors like china and cherry red are also fiercely soaking walls and furniture pieces in dramatic magenta hues.

Giftware News has also declared, "Steel is the new wood." There is rampant return to the spare, modernist looks of the '60s and '70s. At the IDS, there was a proliferation of cubist, stainless steel-legged furnishings reminiscent of Mies van der Rohe's classic Barcelona chair. Not coincidentally, there was also a mini exhibit commemorating another great architect, the Danish export Arne Jacobsen. Highlights included some of his most popular works like the Ant chair, a staple in every trendy café.

Today's mass-produced ergonomic office chairs also trace their beginnings to Jacobsen's Egg chair and Oxford chair series.

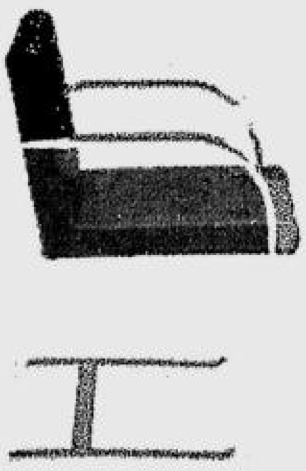
Capiz is in

Other notable trends include the move from Chinese to Indonesian and Indian influences in art. These include wood block prints, vivid colors and gold. Talk about a fashion backlash from the last season.

"There will also be a departure from muted earth colors to more vibrant colors for the home," observes Regina Bautista, one-half of the team that makes up A and R Décor Inc., an art reproduction company based out of British Columbia.

Of note is a special mention by Giftware editors of capiz as a big trend this year: "Found only in the Philippines, these thin, translucent shells are appearing on a variety of products, often with hand-painted images."

Indeed, trend watcher or not, there's no place like home. More to the point, a well-appointed home.



THE BRNO chair

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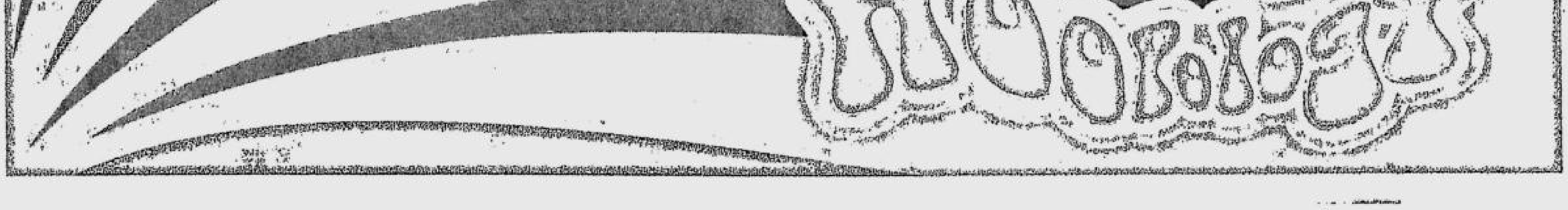
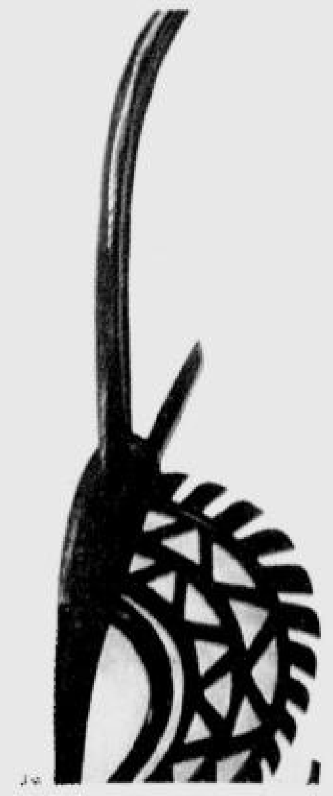
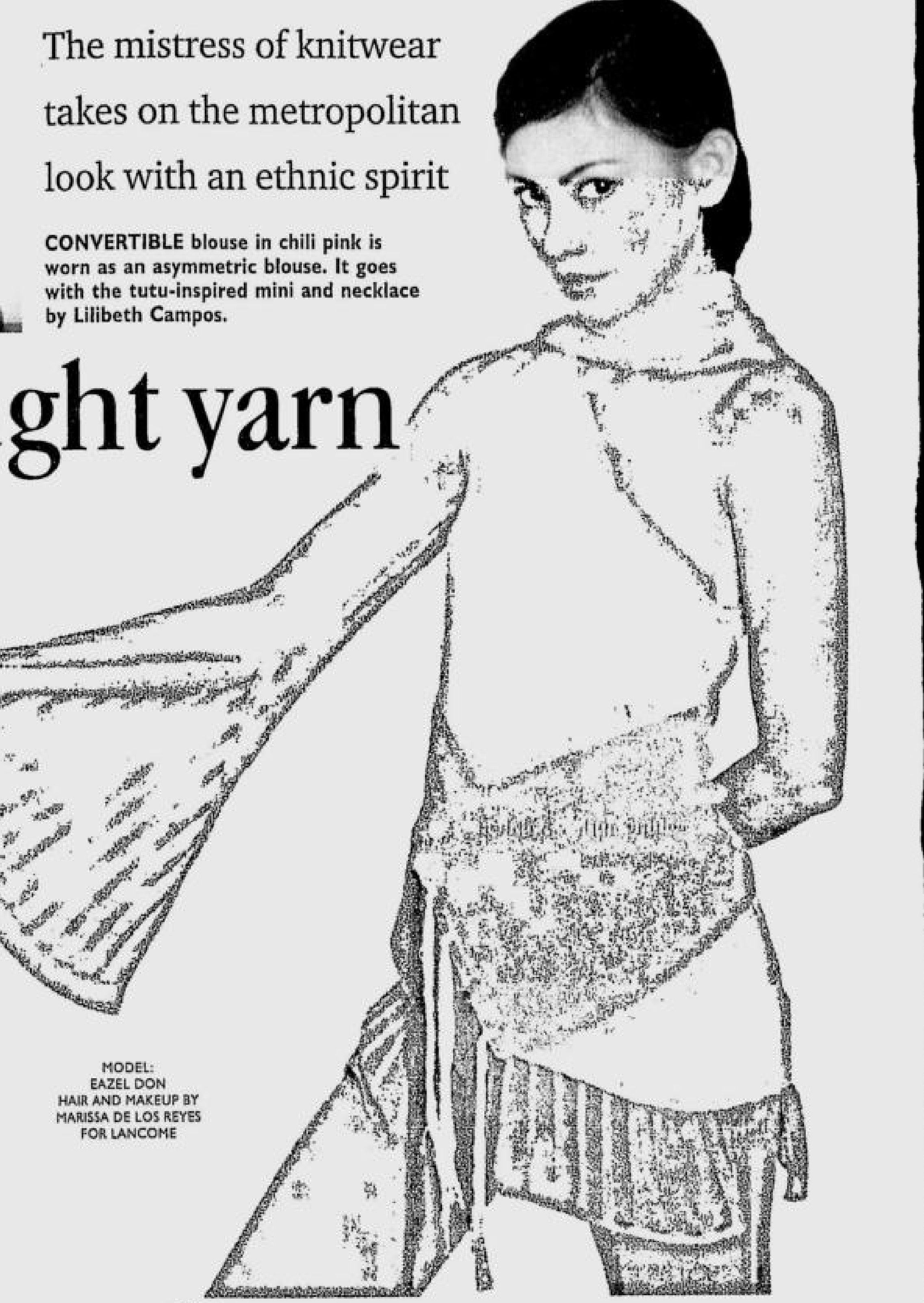

Take the other kid to school.
Hoopology

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE



SHIRRED tube top worn with a kimono shrug and obi in chili and gold



CONVERTIBLE blouse in chili pink is worn as an asymmetric blouse. It goes with the tutu-inspired mini and necklace by Lilibeth Campos.

MODEL:
EAZEL DON
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY
MARISSA DE LOS REYES
FOR LANCOME

Tan-Gan's well-wrought yarn

The mistress of knitwear takes on the metropolitan look with an ethnic spirit

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Wahoo Guerrero

KNITWEAR designer Lulu Tan-Gan spent Holy Week in Israel amid suicide bombings and the escalating crisis in the Middle East. It was home to husband Joseph Gruta, and she did wifely duties. During those times, she kept positive thoughts and came back to Manila recharged for another battle of sorts—her fashion show.

Tan-Gan will present her 50-piece collection on April 14 at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila. Directed by Ariel Lozada, the show is governed by the theme "Metro Ethno," where she describes her forecast as casually elegant with a touch of handicraft.

The metropolitan looks are interpreted in the career, after-6 and travel collection. Her career clothes are blousy but not oversized, which is the trend this year. Some details are typical of her wackiness such as what she describes as "deconstructed" bows and neckties.

"Some are shirred, some are fragmented or carry ties that are either pleated or exaggeratedly striped. It's a new career look for someone who is brave enough to wear it at work," she says.

Drapes

Tan-Gan will also present her drapes, a staple in her repertoire. This includes a Roman toga made contemporary by the use of cotton acetate yarns, which are light and flattering to the figure. The travel collection, another trademark, will feature her Cruella de Ville capes, long coats, hooded ponchos in chenille, a knit's answer to velvet. The coats are popular with *balikbayan* customers who visit her shop to stock up on their fall and winter wear.

There are also ethnic references such as kimono sleeves, obi sashes, Latin ruffles and peasant tops also done in cotton acetate yarn with metallic threads.

Handicraft will be seen in some outfits with open stitches with inserts of Fino Tapes to create interesting patterns. "Fino Tapes can produce three-dimensional effects. Beadwork is not always practical because they can make knits look bulky," she says.

The collection will also play on contrasts such as matching a curvy top with tuxedo pants or combining sheer threads with denser yarns, long and short proportions, flat and three-dimensional effects, matte textures with shine and loose shapes with tapered cuts.

Many of her clothes are variations of what she has been doing in the past such as the asymmetric blouses, shrugs, blousons over tubes, tube pants and pleated skirts. However, they look new because of the refinement of the yarns, the choice of colors and the experimentation with textures. This new collection will tantalize the customer because of the blast of colors.

Some of the styles are already moving on the racks of the Tan-Gan stores at ShoeMart malls and Robinsons Galleria. Women have been lapping up on the chemise and off-the-shoulder styles as well as the shirred tops. Her innovation, the convertible wrap, has been well received.

"You can wear the blouse in three different ways—with both arms in the sleeves; with one arm in the sleeve while the other sleeve serves as a neck wrap, and as a tube. The two sleeves hanging can be rolled around the neck or used as a turban," Lulu says.

Collaboration

A fashion show is always a collaboration with other fields in the business. Tan-Gan chose Shiseido The Makeup because its spring-summer colors complement her "Metro Ethno" theme. The pearlized and glimmery makeup colors round out her palette, which is derived from colors of the earth—spices, minerals and metals.

The models will get head-to-toe treatment starting with summery cuts from Franck Provost Salon, jewelry by Lilibeth Campos and shoes from Figlia and CMG.

Metro Magazine is printing a souvenir booklet, which provides Tan-Gan's trends and information on knitwear and its care. The event will be covered by Fashion Television.

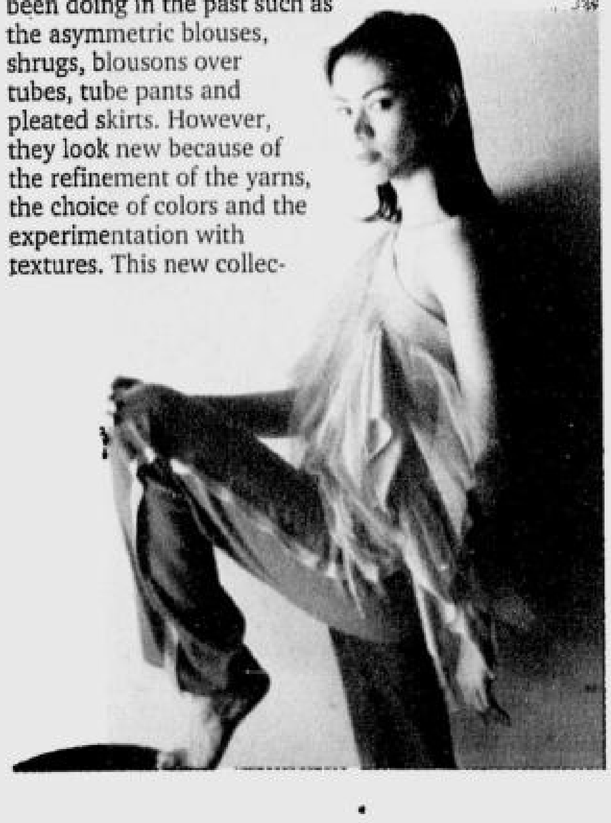
Tan-Gan underscores the importance of handling knits since many consumers are not knowledgeable about them. She says that 95 percent of her garments are user-friendly and easy to maintain. When laundering, wring out all of the water because its density weighs down the garment. Reshape the knitwear while it is damp and even out the shoulders, armholes, sleeves or hemlines.

"Don't be afraid to twist the garment. It won't get out of shape," she says. There's no need to iron the knitwear unless the yarns are in cotton.

Tan-Gan understands the lifestyle of a busy working woman. Not only does she like to look smart, she also likes to get clothes that are easy on the pocket and on the washing machine.

ANOTHER variation of the convertible blouse in chili pink and paprika, with the kimono sleeves wrapped around the neck matched with tube pants. It is accented with an obi sash.

SAFFRON dolman blouse with open stitches worn over a tube and gartered pants with an obi leather belt in rust and black.



ONE-SHOULDER ruffled top in paprika and hot pink with tuxedo pants

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE

The Net expands the multimedia game

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

THE INVENTION of the camera gave birth to new mediums such as still photography and later on, motion pictures and television. The development of the recorder also took music a step further by duplicating music and making it possible for it to be listened to through the radio and eventually, on vinyl records and later on, on compact discs.

Recording artists are releasing their latest work and holding concerts on the Web. Even authors are getting a piece of the action

Today, the Internet is fast becoming the medium to reckon with in the millennium. The concept of millions of people sitting in front of a computer for hours as a form of entertainment would have seemed absurd if anyone suggested it 15 years ago. And yet today Cyberspace is more congested than ever with people from all walks of life crowding chat rooms, sending e-mail, reading the news, playing games online and downloading anything from photographs to movies.

And if the whole hoopla on Napster threatened to put a stop to the seemingly uncontrollable copying going on, look again. MP3s, which compress music files at near CD quality for easy transmission over the Internet; and inventions like the Mac's Ipod, which can store up to 1,000 songs and 10 hours of music, have people downloading music till 2 a.m. Artists have taken notice and they are slowly embracing the Internet as an alternative medium rather than an enemy. The digital age has made it much easier to assimilate and distribute one's work without the added costs of a middleman such as a producer or publisher. The rampant forwarding of e-mail is enough proof that if you want to get noticed, go online for the simple reason that a larger amount of people can be reached in a shorter amount of time. For instance, who hasn't seen the Cabaret-singing alien doing "I Will Survive"? Probably more people have seen that than this year's Oscar winner for short animated film. Sites like www.creativeforces.com have computer-animated short movies that can be downloaded for a fee, while sites like www.pocketmovies.net lets you download the work of independent artists for free.

Online authors

Authors who uploaded their stories online were once considered "wannabes" who could never get their work published. This all changed when best-selling author Stephen King gave credibility to e-books by releasing "Riding the Bullet" exclusively online. This e-book novella was read by over 500,000 on the first day of its release. After King's foray into online publishing, the sales of site like Renaissance e-books (www.renebooks.com) and www.booklocker.com tripled. Today the trend is serializing stories on the Internet and many authors are making a killing. E-books are not free but they are definitely a fraction of what it costs to buy a book. And with Personal Digital Assistants evolving fast, we now have the option of loading our favorite books on to our Handheld (another word for PDA).

And while the heavy metal band Metallica took Napster to court, the alternative group Smashing Pumpkins released its last single exclusively on the Internet as well as an unreleased version of its "Try, Try, Try" video on its website (www.smashingpumpkins.com). Their website also includes live audio streaming of unreleased recordings from the band's archives. Other similar efforts include www.musicmaker.com 's exclusive long term rights for the Internet distribution of The Who's new album "The Blues to the Bush" which is a live recording of the band's legendary 1999 reunion shows, and www.Bowie.net which have previously unreleased version's of David Bowie's songs. Legend Paul McCartney also had his concert at the Cavern Club in Liverpool, the club in which the Beatles got their start, featured live online. Independent artists like Aimee Mann who sang the haunting music from the film "Magnolia" also have released albums only available on the Internet.

Even fashion has used Cyberspace to gain a wider audience. In 1999, Victoria's Secret had the first-ever Internet Fashion show and received 1.5 million hits has it played live with "streaming video" highlights and a photo gallery of backstage shots.

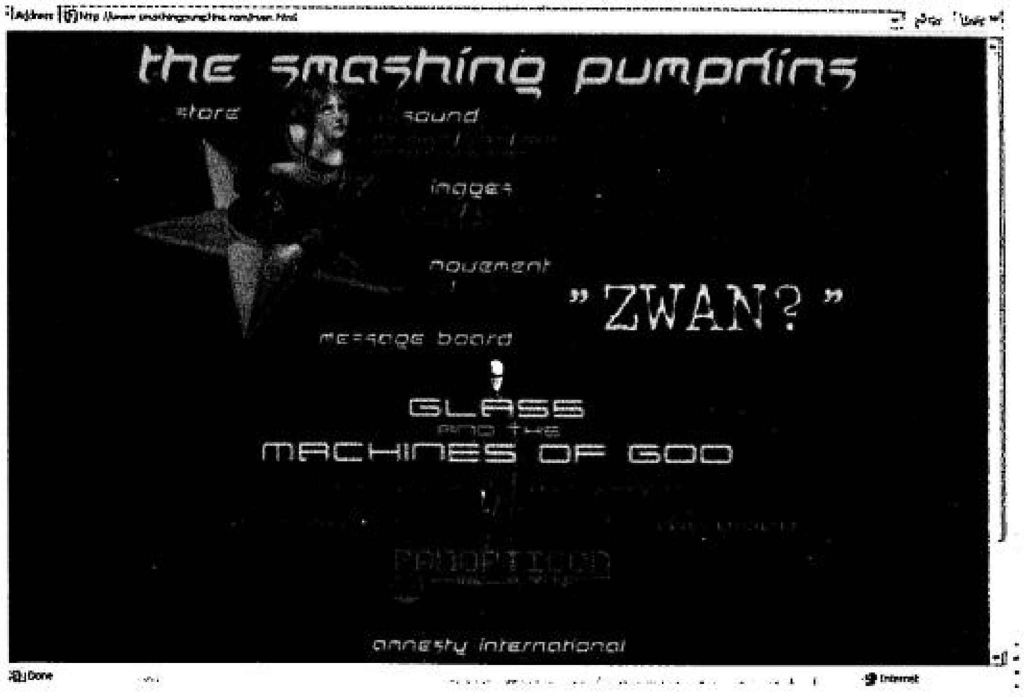
Other artists

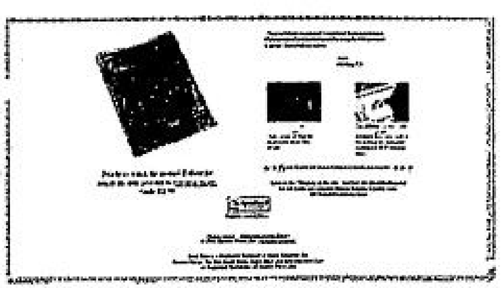
Filmmakers, dance choreographers and multimedia artists are also now using the Internet to promote their craft. Mostly independent artists, they have websites that showcase their latest works, which would otherwise never get exposure. The Internet has even spawned a new medium called Web Installations. There are many of these—mostly experimental art that juxtaposes pop art with digital photography, text, animation and sound. Some are fun and mindless like www.safeplaces.net, some are very cerebral like www.brick.ca, while some are just plain absurd like "Apartment" at www.turbulence.org, wherein one's sentences eventually form art of some sort.

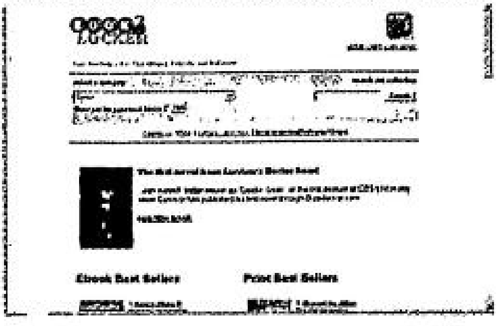
Even games are now exploring online gaming further. While games like The Sims, Counterstrike, Diablo and other RPGs have an existing online option, there are games like EverQuest, which can only be played online for a monthly fee. The success of EverQuest is so phenomenal that there are therapy groups now in the US that cater to EverQuest addicts and EverQuest widows.

With high-speed Internet access like DSL now becoming the norm, there's no telling what's next. And while it is true that the current technology is rapidly turning the whole idea of copyright into a risky proposition, the public doesn't seem to mind.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com







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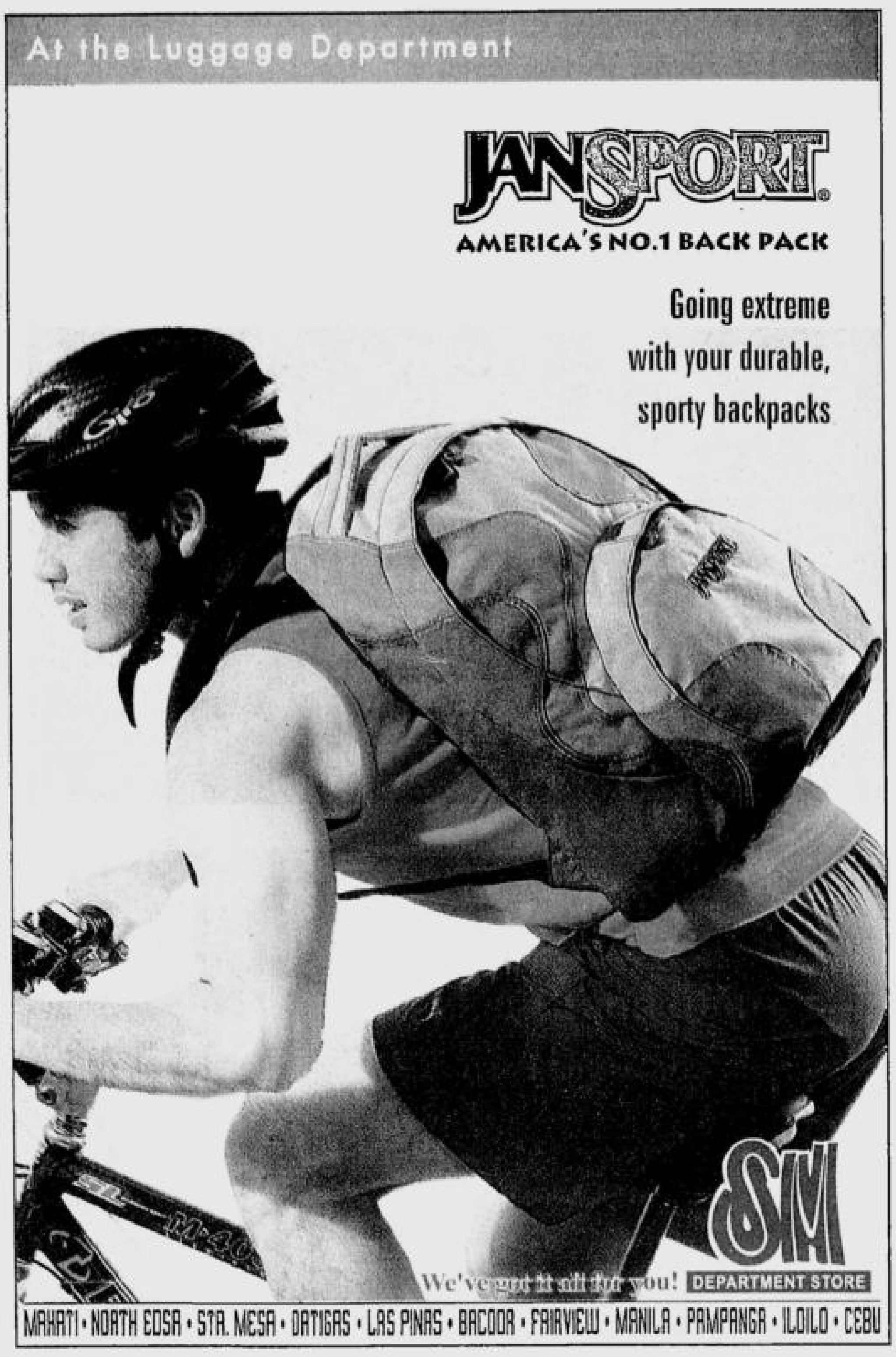
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Boracay's tasty secret no more

JUST a few moons ago, family and friends of Louie Cruz and Mike Rieta flew in full force to Boracay to discover and savor what had been dubbed as the island paradise's most eagerly awaited gastronomic secret. And what a fabulous discovery McSandro Bistro at D'Mall D'Boracay proved to be.

What made Louie's mom, the late Lucy Cruz, a most gracious wife to the late ambassador and journalist JV Cruz, were her unforgettably sumptuous dinners. And what a pleasant surprise it was for everyone in Boracay to find her well-known specialties, such as Beef Mechado, Chicken and Pork Adobo, and Chicken à la Kiev in the menu, among many other equally tasty offerings.

In McSandro, Mike's solid years of experience with McDonald's Phils. combine perfectly with Louie's marketing and PR genius.

The two have come up with other tempting menu items, such as grilled meat and seafood, fresh green salads and even special preparations of honest-to-goodness home-cooked meals for a minimum group of six persons. What best come to mind, though, are their spaghetti meals and Combo Specialties. The last are composed of pasta, and a choice between Breaded Chicken Leg Quarter and Chicken à la Kiev. Diners may bring their own bottle of wine for a minimal corkage fee.

JENNY Crinion, Annie Bagnall, Mark Flores, Tonton Eugenio, James de la Vega and Taj Locher

DORSIE Guingona, Benjie Guingona, Carla Reyes and Millie Reyes

In the recent event, the guests included Millie Reyes and family (of the famed Plaza Restaurant), well-liked publicist Edd Fuentes, Joel Cruz and neighbor PJ Exconde of Bleuvert Ltd. that sells Bench and Speedo merchandise, Taj Tajanlangit-Locher of Treebu, Dante Yap of B Salon (whose shops are also found at D'Mall D'Boracay), Mike's ultra-proud parents Sonny and Tess Rieta, his good-looking brother Sandy, and countless foreign tourists, all in awe of McSandro's kitchen.

Louie and Mike received well-deserved accolades that evening, even when their "hidden secret" was no more because the cat was out of the bag. Spending an arm and a leg to enjoy a decent meal on the island's beachfront establishments is now a thing of the past. All one must do is to locate McSandro Bistro. Now, is that so hard to do?

MIKE Rieta (right) with guest

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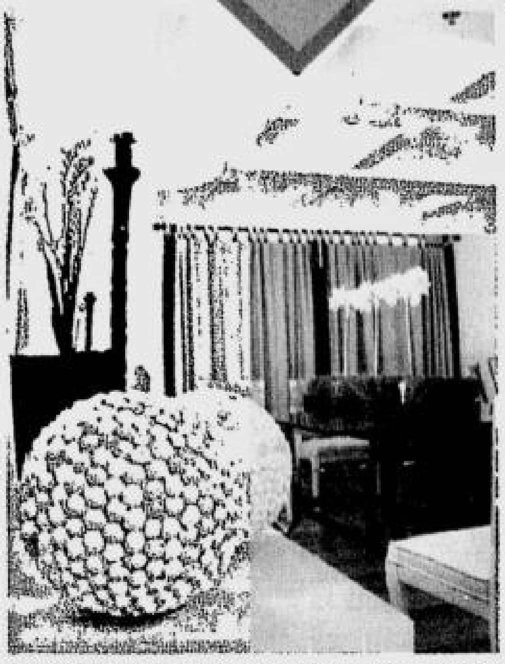
lifestyle at the Highlands



SEVERAL round accent pieces in varying sizes and studded with shells soften an otherwise manly setup. Architect Raymond Gutierrez converted the boring, one-dimensional surface into a coffered ceiling.

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

LIFE'S full of ironies for hardworking businessman Atom Henares. Although he isn't exactly as rich as Bill Gates, Atom has presumably earned a modest sum through his simultaneous involvement in such diverse but thriving industries as media, paper, palm oil and lately, power generation.

"When I decided to buy a weekend home several years ago," he says, "I chose Tagaytay because of its pristine yet accessible location. I wanted a place that could double as my private corner."

His Pinecrest Village unit at the posh Tagaytay Highlands is an ideal hideaway overlooking Taal Lake from a verandah, and Laguna de Bay from one of the windows. What's more, Atom's corner unit sits right below that of Greg Yu, Tagaytay Highlands' president. "I've been lucky enough to pick this unit with one of the best views," he says.

Due to his numerous commitments, however, Atom hardly has the time to enjoy the amenities his unit and the exclusive club have to offer. The place, with no stove, TV and refrigerator, looks hardly lived in. "I haven't been there in months," he explains during an interview at his Rockwell unit in Makati. "How I wish I could go there more often."

Hotel chic

It's quite understandable then that Atom, first through architect and interior designer Raymond Gutierrez, has come up with a classy but easy-to-maintain weekend home that exudes hotel chic—from the color-coordinated curtains to the upholstered furniture pieces.

Atom is partial to white and blue shades, which he finds sleek, versatile and very manly. The Almario sisters, Ivy and Cynthia, came in later to further dress up the one-bedroom affair with an extended living room and modest kitchen.

"That's one thing I like about condo living," Atom shares. "I don't have to worry about such aspects as security, maintenance and housekeeping. Whenever I'm here, I go straight to bedroom, lie down and wrap myself in clean sheets." Pinecrest offers housecleaning services for its transient homeowners.

What about food? Atom, a health buff, can choose from among 13 specialty restaurants within the club. Various state-of-the-art sports facilities are available at Atom's disposal if only he can find time to use any of them.

Since Atom bought an empty shell of a house, the first thing Gutierrez did was to add drama to the plain ceiling. From a boring, one-dimensional surface, a series of recesses and parallel false beams now cut the ceiling horizontally and vertically. Architects and interior designers call it a coffered ceiling.

ATOMIC/ p.F2

IVY softens the side table's stiff, grid patterns with artificial plants and mood lighting. A hotel feel is evident in the durable but low-maintenance furniture pieces.

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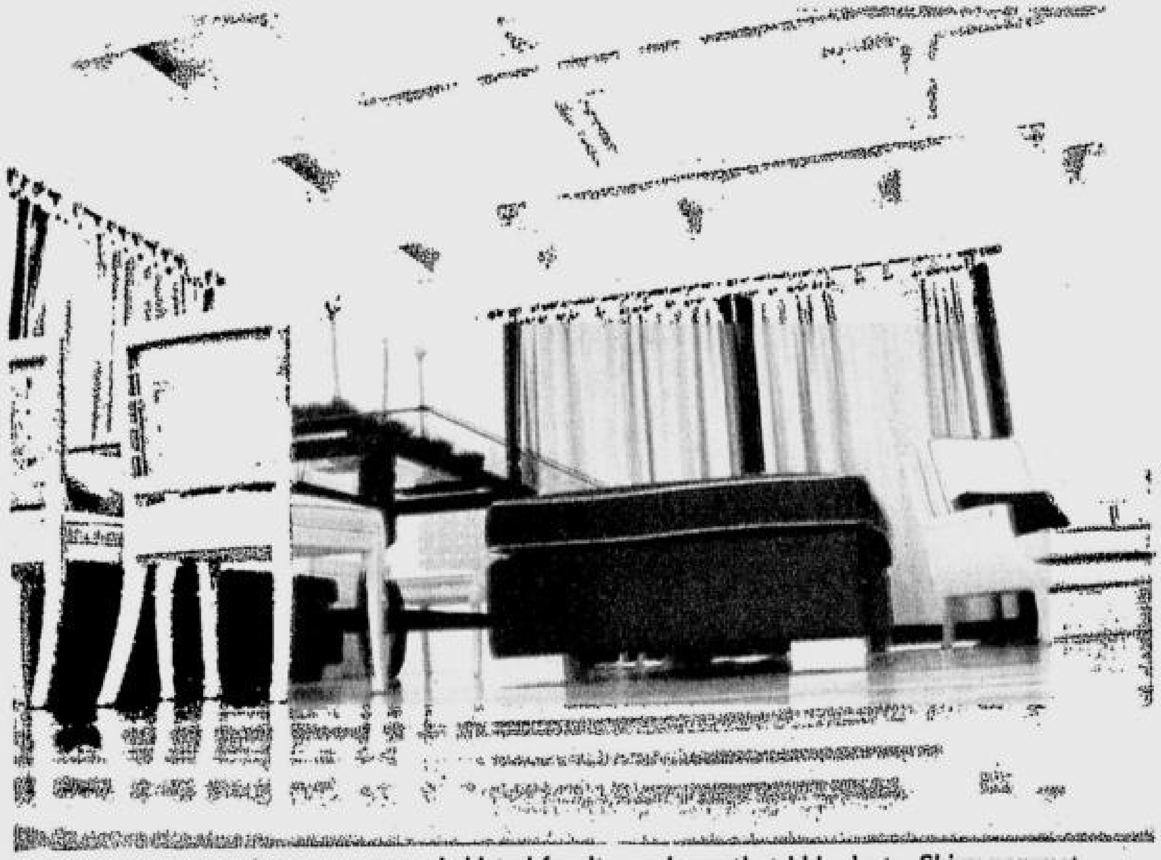
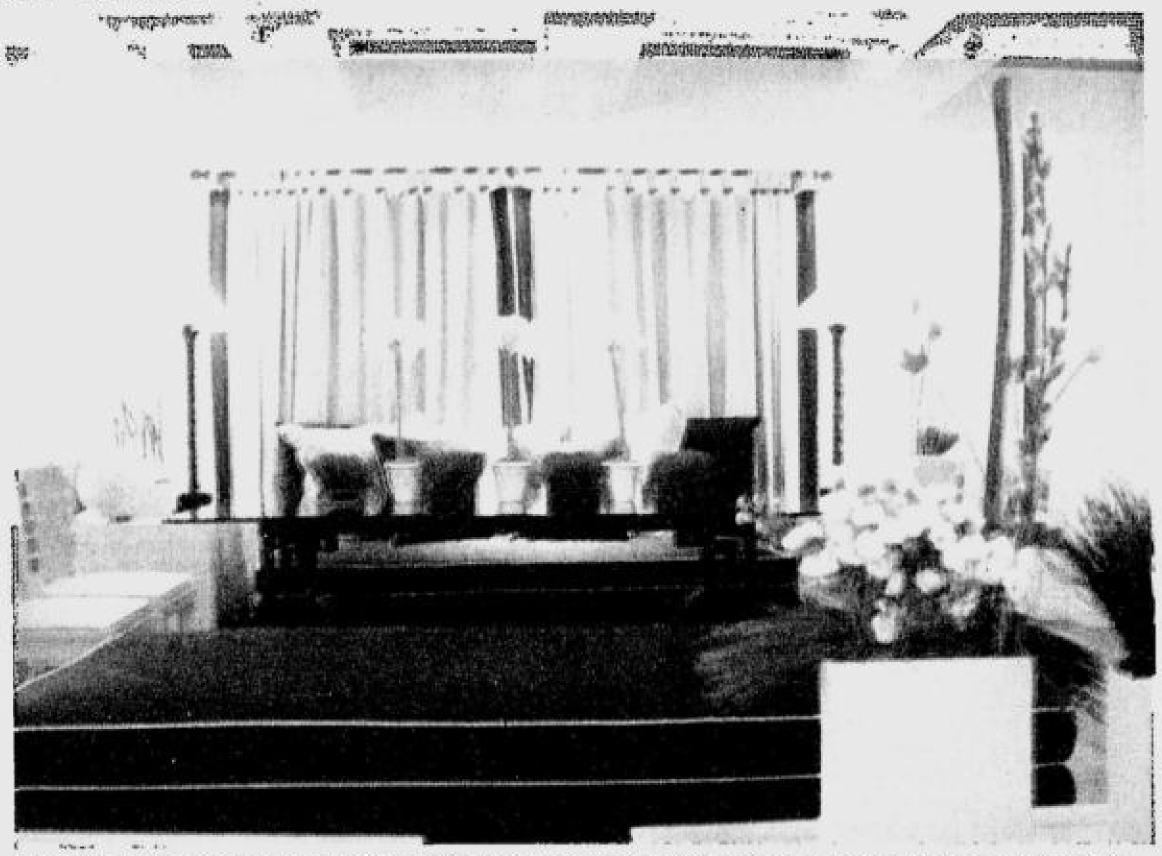


THE HOUSE is free from carpets and skirted furniture pieces that hide dusts. Shiny parquet flooring contrasts with the white walls and coffered ceiling.

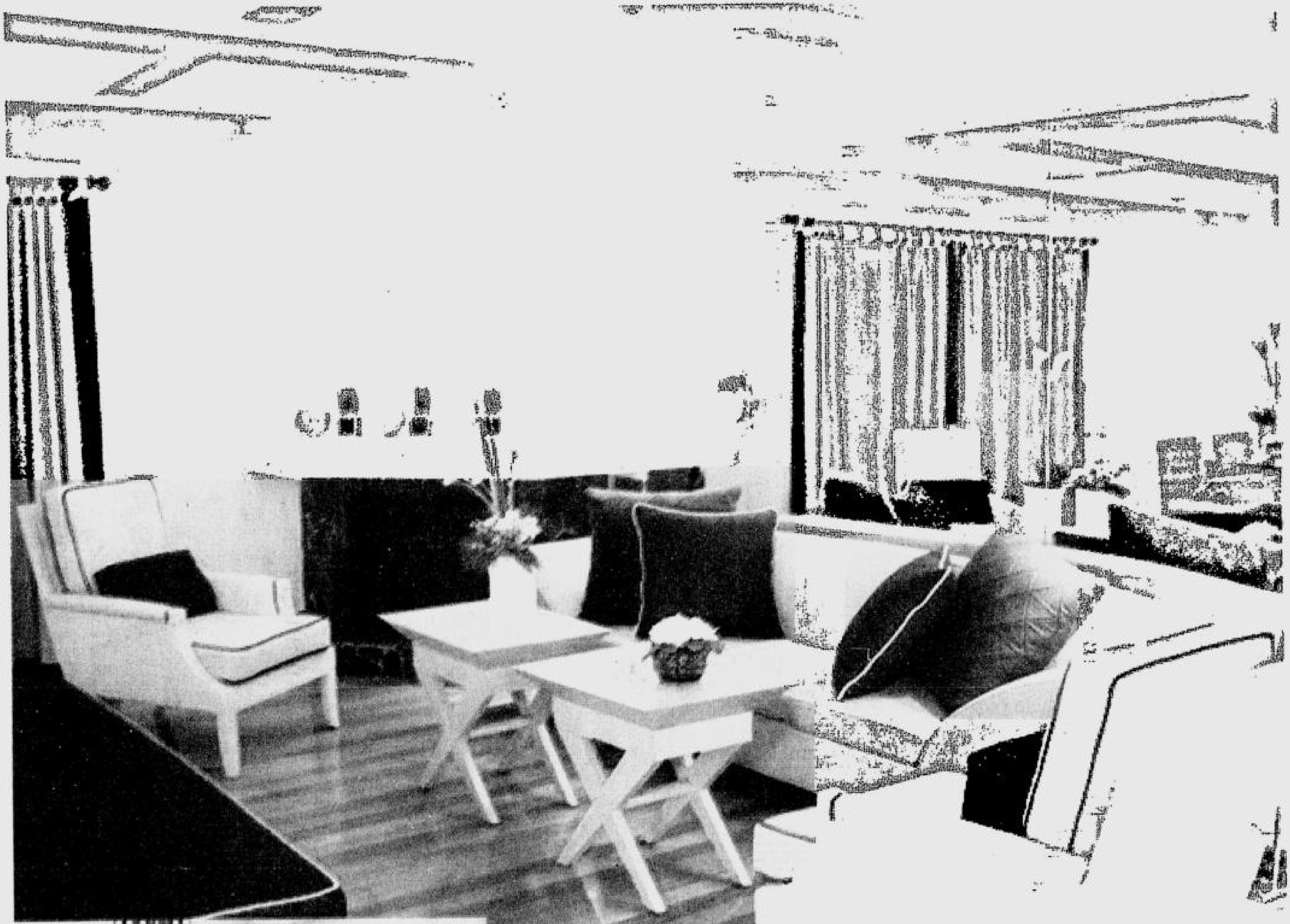


A VIEW of the dining room from a different angle. One of the divans separates the area from the living room.

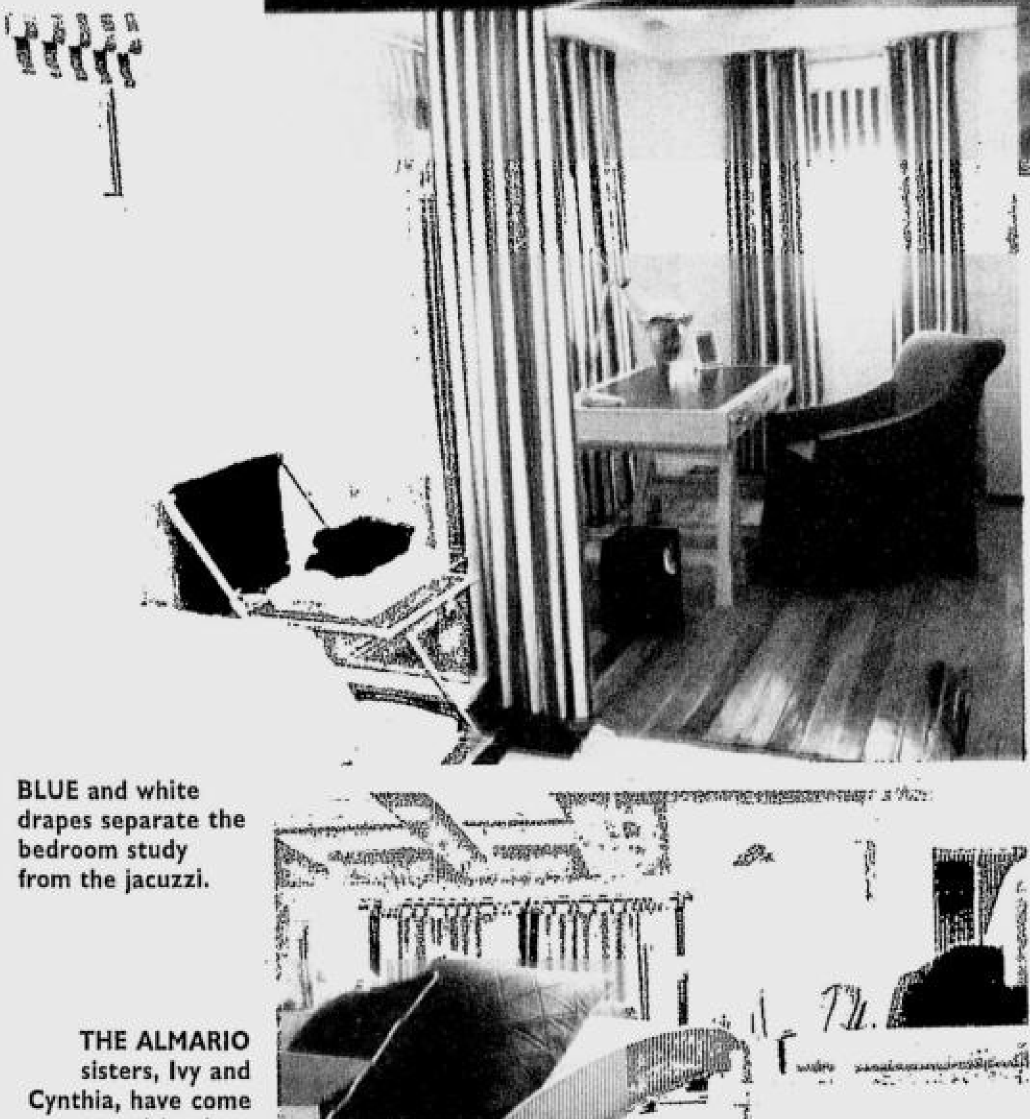
Atomic lifestyle at the Highlands

Businessman Atom Henares' hideaway at Tagaytay Highlands reflects hotel chic with a homey, manly feel

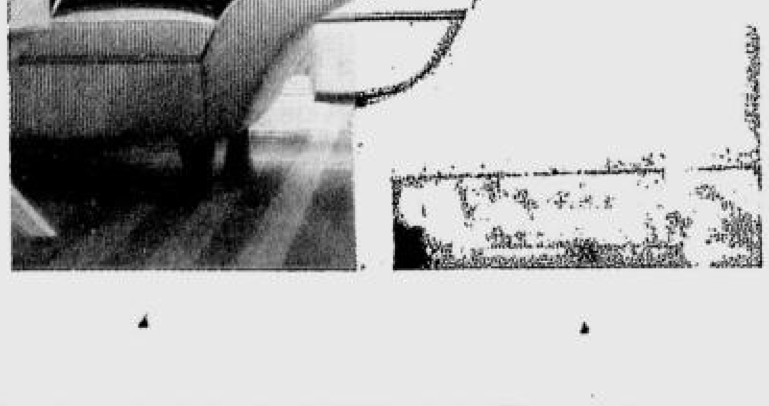
ATOMIC/ p.F4



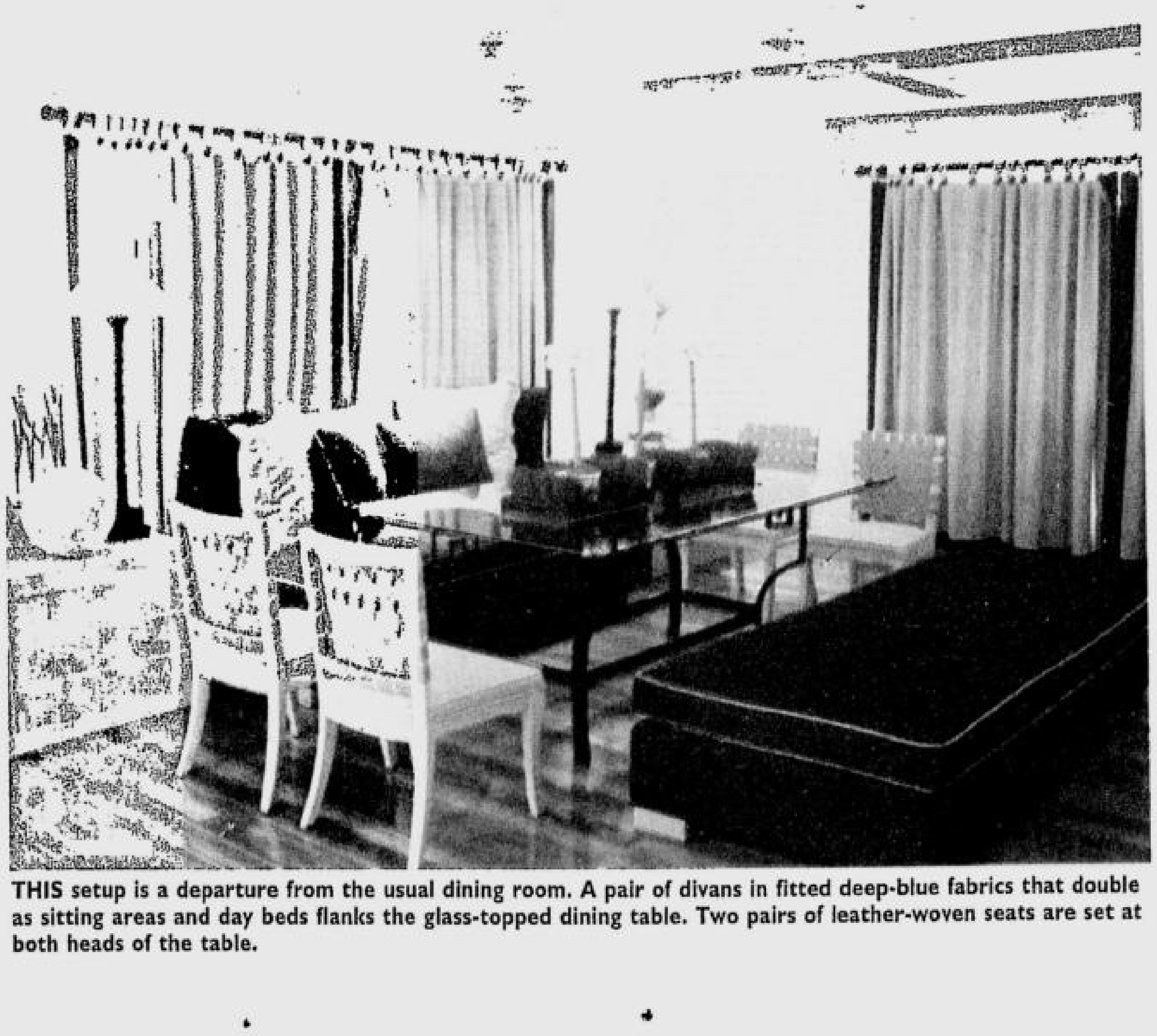
MIRRORS impart the living room with an illusion of space. Round accent pieces act as a counterpoint to the long, flat fireplace mantle.



BLUE and white drapes separate the bedroom study from the jacuzzi.



THE ALMARIO sisters, Ivy and Cynthia, have come up with a low-maintenance furniture scheme that mixes soft and hard pieces. The colors are limited to white and varying shades of blue.



THIS setup is a departure from the usual dining room. A pair of divans in fitted deep-blue fabrics that double as sitting areas and day beds flanks the glass-topped dining table. Two pairs of leather-woven seats are set at both heads of the table.

Writing workshop for young Pinoys offered

GOINGS ON

TOWER Book House offers a writing workshop for young Filipinos aged 9-18 this summer. The workshop covers techniques in discovering one's writing style, strengthening one's style and applying it in various forms of communication. It will include essay writing, feature writing, journalism, short story writing, playwriting, reviews of books, movies and concerts.
Call 815-4938/6925.

REUNION. Class 1952 of the La Union High School in San Fernando City will hold its golden reunion on April 27 at the high school grounds.

ITALIAN CLASSES. The Philippine-Italian Association (PIA) announces the opening of its summer Italian Classes for Beginners. Classes will be held 2-8 p.m. every Monday and Thursday starting April 22 at the PIA Secretariat, 2/F Zeta Building, 191 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 815-1310.

BOOK FAIR. The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions is holding the 6th Philippine Academic Book Fair July 15-19 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, QC. This year's theme is "Books: Keys to Creativity and Development." Call 927-9858 or 435-5727.

SEMINAR. The Center for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc. will conduct seminar-workshops on Instructional Materials Writing (textbooks, journals and modules) and Low Cost Technology on High Value Crops April 10-11 at AKAP International, 126 A-1, 2nd Road, Quezon Hill, Baguio City.
The Professional Librarians' Review Center will conduct a seminar on Abstracting and Indexing Made Easy: A Modular Approach, April 12-13, also at AKAP International. Call 927-9858, 435-5727 or 443-4769.

CHILDREN'S BOOK. Adarna House, the country's pioneer children's book publishing firm, is now accepting submissions of children's stories for its 2003 batch of storybooks. All manuscripts must be typewritten and submitted to 73-A Scout Limbaga St., QC on or before April 15. Call 372-3548/49.

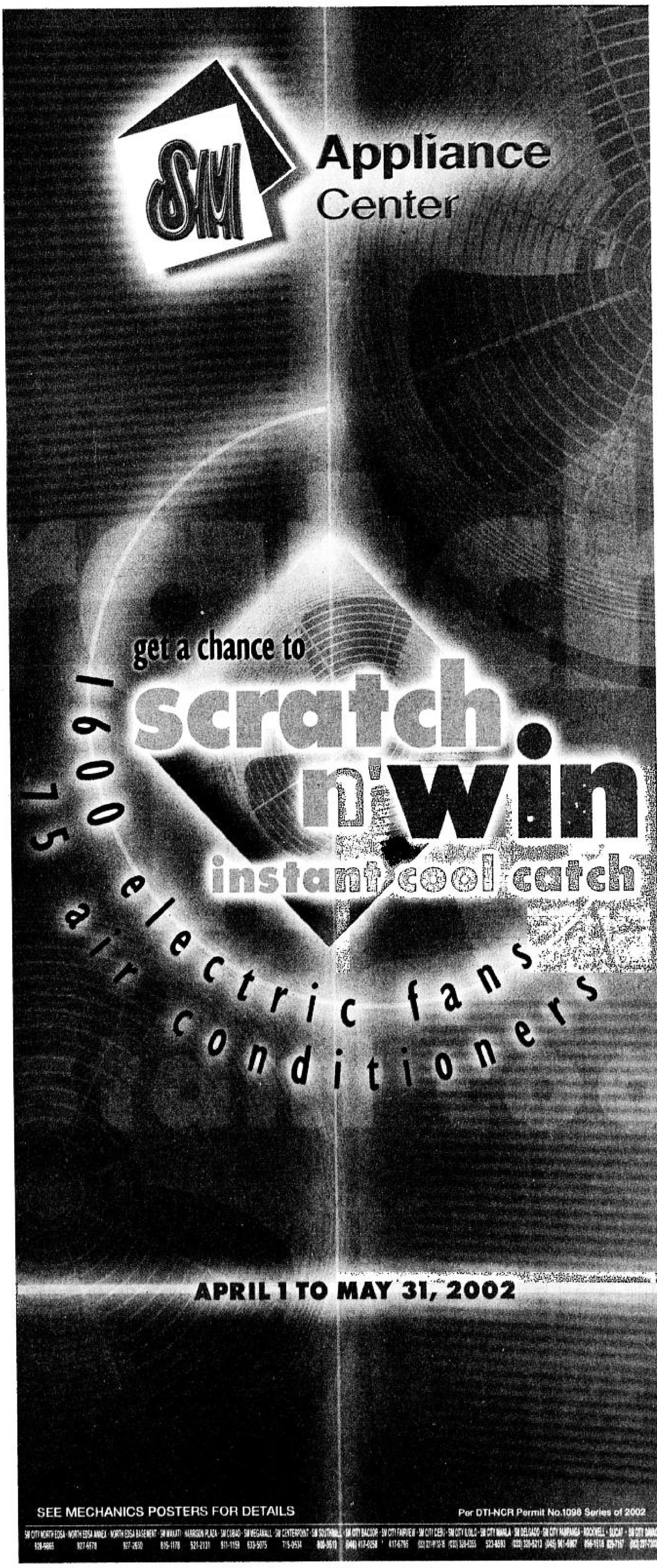
SUMMER CLASSES. Ricky Lee, the award-winning scriptwriter and author of the best-selling scriptwriting manual "Trip to Quiapo," will conduct classes in Basic Scriptwriting for Film and TV. Starting April 20, there will be two classes: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Each class will be limited to 25 students.
Connie Chua, an accomplished stage, TV and film actress, will handle the Basic Acting for Film and TV Workshop. Classes will be held 6-9 p.m. weekdays starting April 15. Students will mount a production as their culminating activity.
The workshop will be held at Green Door's office, 3/F Francisco Gold Condominium 1, 784 Edsa, West Kamias, QC. Call 433-4423, Ben (0919) 325-5633 or Timmy (0917) 409-5051.

ACTING DEMO. Free acting demonstration classes directed by Juilliard-trained Ana Valdes-Lim are ongoing until May 10. Comedic/dramatic improvisation classes are open to the public 7:15-8 p.m. Monday and Friday, at the 2/F Philippine Playhouse Studio, 1269 Batangas St.; Makati City. Call 879-8230 or (0917) 899-8158.

SEMINAR. ProActive Center for Training will hold a seminar/workshop on the catering business 1-5 p.m. April 15-23 at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, QC. The eight-day training will feature lectures and hands-on sessions on legal requirements, menu planning, equipping and staffing, cost control, napkin folding and table skirting, among others. Call 823-4947 or (0919) 550=0601.

WORKSHOP. John Mossige will conduct a workshop on photography late this month. The workshop will cover black and white photography. Call (0917) 481-0161 or Cal Carrie's at 844-0350.

EXPO. The country's premier motoring exposition, Trans Sport Show 2009, will be held April 6-14 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City.
Aside from the car display, the event will also feature the annual search for Miss Trans Sport Show, which is open to all promotional girls of the show's participating companies.
Organized by TradeShow International Inc., the show, with the theme "Auto Design Evolution," will focus on cars with timeless designs. Porsche, will present a beautifully restored Porsche 356s. The BMW Z Club Philippines will have a thematic display of four different BMW Z roadsters and a photo archive of BMW's classic sports cars, from prewar to the present.



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Atomic lifestyle at the Highlands

From page F2

Gutierrez then worked around the small bedroom by knocking down the wall between it and the bathroom. Thus, Atom's study now has a direct view of the jacuzzi and shower stall, an area wrapped in sheets of clear and frosted glass. Behind the shower stall is the throne room surrounded this time by frosted glass from top to bottom.

"I really preferred clear glass for the shower stall," says Atom with a wink. "Anyway, it's just me in the shower most of the time."

The jacuzzi area is decidedly bare except for a number of fancy touches: an elongated flower vase with artificial flowers and a three-layer cake dish that Ivy converted into a face towel and candle organizer. Atom can draw a pair of blue-and-white drapes around the jacuzzi whenever he feels bashful, which is quite rare.

A BREAKFAST nook for two in a weekend home that's hardly been lived in. Large panel windows provide a refreshing view of Laguna de Bay. Cabinets and furniture pieces are stylish but low-maintenance.

Powder room

As a courtesy to visitors, however, Gutierrez has provided them with a powder room in the sala. With the interior over and done with, the Almario sisters immediately went to work sourcing furniture and accent pieces. Their guiding principles? Rustic yet streamlined, tasteful yet low-maintenance, stylish yet spontaneous.

The place, says Ivy, is a counterpoint to his chic unit at the Asia Tower. Atom's Pinecrest home is a stylized take on a country dwelling with softer and warmer touches, without loosing its masculine feel.

"I'm a generalist with no time or formal training to go into details," Atom admits. "I gave them an idea of what I want and I let them fill in all the details. Ivy has been able to bring eloquence to my thoughts."

Having been envisioned as a weekend home, the house has no guestroom. Ivy has maximized every available space in the living room. A pair of divans in fitted deep-blue fabrics that double as sitting areas and day beds, for instance, flanks the glass-topped dining table. Two pairs of leather-woven seats are set on both heads of the table. One of the divans also doubles as a divider between the dining and living room areas.

"Family and friends can stay for a night or two," says Atom, while pointing to several throw pillows set on one of the divans. Not a few guests have noticed a draped multi-level pillow wrack Ivy designed by the front door. The rest of the furniture pieces, such as cabinets, coffee tables and side tables, are made of Philippine bleached mahogany. Several round accent pieces in varying sizes and studded with shells soften an otherwise manly setup.

Another sitting area by the living room features a white and blue pinstriped couch. "Having come ahead of the others," says Atom of the gondola-shaped couch, "it set the color scheme for the other pieces that followed."

Atom's practical approach is even reflected in his choice of furniture pieces and "plants." All the life-like flowers and greens are actually artificial plants designed and crafted by Cynthia. "No real plants would survive in such a set-up," says Atom with a grin.

To make life easier for their busy client, the Almario sisters have also eschewed skirted furniture that hides dust in favor of pieces with long slender legs. The weekend home, with its shiny parquet floors, is also virtually free from carpets or rugs. Atom is that occupied, he has no time even to sweep the dust under them.

Lawn and garden supermarket in Taytay

FEDERAL Hardware-Taytay opened recently at 175 Manila East Road, Barangay Kaytikling, Dolores, offering a large display area for lawn and garden products. Shoppers can choose from a wide variety of potted plants, décor, plant-care products, garden sets, sprinklers, gardening tools and related merchandise.

Federal Hardware Builder's Center is a US-style, large-scale hardware designed for professional builders and do-it-yourself enthusiasts. Aside from the lawn and garden section, it has pet-care products, tiles, plumbing supplies, lumber, electrical, hand and power tools, paints, house ware and car-care products.

Federal Hardware's flagship store is on Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo), Makati City. Both stores are open Monday to Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Call 284-2206 and 665-3442.

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